



UNITED NATIONS
NAMIBIA



UNITED NATIONS CONTRIBUTION TO
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
NAMIBIA'S COVID-19 RECOVERY PLAN



FOREWORD BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR

The year 2020 will indubitably be remembered as the year in which countries' societal structures, economies and institutions were shaken and livelihoods threatened due to the global outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in December 2019. It was a year in which successful businesses (large, micro, small and medium enterprises) faced closure, workers faced retrenchments and governments' capacity to respond was put to test. As it has become clear during this past year, our world has experienced an event that has brought about irreversible changes to countries and economies. Nevertheless, the crisis has engendered renewed opportunities, accelerated innovation in key sectors and identified weaknesses in institutional structures that, once rectified, will strengthen our resilience, were we to ever face an event similar to the COVID-19 pandemic again. It is during times such as these that support from the United Nations (UN) and the worldwide development community is most needed, and failing to provide such support is not an option.

Following the declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO) of the pandemic as a public health emergency of international concern on 30 January 2020, Namibia registered the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 in March 2020. The Government responded with the immediate establishment of the National Health Emergency Management Committee, tasked with managing the COVID-19 response by putting in place measures to protect citizens from the devastating effects of the crisis. Not only has COVID-19 continued to claim lives and pose a severe threat to increases in poverty, inequality and unemployment levels as well as reversals in living standards, the measures implemented to contain the spread have also caused economic and societal distress and additional challenges. It is with the aim of contributing to Namibia's response and recovery from the pandemic that the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (SERP) has been commissioned by the United Nations System under the technical leadership of UNDP with input from all other UN Agencies in the country.

As per the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment that preceded the SERP, the defined interventions of this Plan are premised on the five (5) strategic pillars of the United Nations Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19. The pillars include Protecting health services and systems; Protecting people; Economic recovery; Macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration; and Social cohesion and community resilience. The defined interventions based on these pillars are aimed at supporting the Government and people of Namibia in their effort to build back better and emerge from the adverse economic and social impacts of the pandemic on the economy and people in the medium term (12 to 18 months). The Plan also includes long-term strategic policy recommendations aimed at building back better from the pandemic through social and macroeconomic restructuring.

There is no doubt that 2020 will be remembered as the year of COVID-19. The extent to which our combined efforts are successful in recovering from this crisis and building back better will determine whether 2021 and beyond will, in turn, be remembered as the years that we, together, managed to overcome this crisis.

Sen Pang

UN Resident Coordinator to Namibia



**"THE EXTENT TO WHICH OUR
COMBINED EFFORTS ARE
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Feeding schemes



Distribution of Dignity Kits to teenage girls



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Subsistence farmers eke out a living



*UNICEF Namibia Health
MCH Home visits MoHSS;
L Narib, 2018*



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area (Agreement)
AMTA	Agro-Marketing and Trade Agency
BoN	Bank of Namibia
CBT	Cash Based Transfer
CHW	Community Health Worker
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 19
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
ECB	Electricity Control Board
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GRN	Government of the Republic of Namibia
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control
IPP	Independent Power Producers
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KSI	Key Strategic Intervention
MNCAH	Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health
MAWF	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services
MoL	Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relation and Employment Creation
MSB	Modified Single Buyer
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
MURD	Ministry of Urban and Rural Development



*UNICEF Namibia North field visit:
Nomhle Kangooui, 2020*

NAU	Namibian Agricultural Union
NCCI	Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry
NSA	Namibia Statistics Agency
NTF	Namibia Trade Forum
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OMA	Offices, Ministries and Agencies
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
PVP	Photovoltaic Pumping
RCCE	Risk Communication and Country Engagement
SACU	Southern African Customs Union
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEIAC-NAM	Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Namibia
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNPAF	United Nations Partnership Agreement Framework
UN Women	United Nations Women
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization



INTRODUCTION

The ongoing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is impacting populations' health, disrupting local businesses and forcing governments to redirect limited public funds from long-term investments to addressing the immediate needs in their economies and amongst their populations. As at February 21, 2021, there have been approximately 111 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 2.4 million deaths due to COVID-19 worldwide (WHO, 2021). The World Bank has warned that the COVID-19 pandemic could push between 40 and 60 million people into extreme poverty in 2020, with sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia being the hardest hit. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has projected a dismal picture for jobs, with about 305 million full-time job losses in 2020 (ILO, 2020). The World Food Programme (WFP) has projected that a total of 265 million people will face acute food insecurity in 2020, up by 130 million from 2019, unless swift action is taken (WFP, 2020). The worldwide closures of educational institutions are impacting hundreds of millions of children, youth and adults unable to attend schools or universities (UNESCO, 2020a). To respond to this crisis, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has called for \$100 billion to be extended to Africa for economic emergency stimulus, including a debt standstill, the financing of a special purpose vehicle for commercial debt obligations, and provision of extra liquidity for the private sector (UNECA, 2020).

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been deeply felt across various social and economic sectors in Namibia, including GDP growth, production sectors, Government revenue and business operations for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). According to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), the Namibian economy contracted by 11.1% in the second quarter, the highest contraction since 2013. The Bank of Namibia (BoN) estimates that the country's 2020 overall production will be N\$11.2 billion lower than in 2019 (BoN, 2020). Domestic consumption is expected to take a hit, with private demand predicted to decline between N\$6 billion and N\$12 billion (Evelina, Samuel & Lukas Homateni, 2020). In a drive to minimize the impact of the pandemic on the country's economy and the citizens within its borders, especially the most vulnerable members of the population, the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) rolled out an economic stimulus and relief package of N\$8.1 billion in April 2020.

UNICEF Namibia Drought:
Leitago Narib, 2013

During this complicated time of economic and social distress, when decades-long progress in human development risks being reversed, it is crucial to plan a recovery path to further enhance sustainable development. However, resources are becoming even more scarce, as newly acquired funds are redirected to servicing the needs of the present, rather than preparing for the future. The lack of adequate fiscal space as a result of falling Government revenue, as well as the loss of income-generating opportunities due to retrenchments and closure of businesses, will have a direct impact on the achievement of various SDGs, if not all, as it implies a reduction in expenditure on a variety of projects and programmes. It is, therefore, in such moments that the following questions hold an even greater importance:

1. Where should governments, private entities, development partners, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other key actors orient their funds so that their economies can regain traction and build back better?
2. What kind of investments must be made to avoid deepening inequalities (gender, economic, spatial, etc.) in an already deeply unequal world, while protecting those most at risk?

It is with the aim of providing answers to these questions that this COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Plan for Namibia has been commissioned by the United Nations System as part of its contribution to the Government of the Republic of Namibia's COVID-19 recovery drive.

As one of the strategic partners, the United Nations System in the country has been at the forefront of supporting the response and recovery measures of the GRN. The UN System in Namibia, in collaboration with government counterparts, has undertaken a socio-economic impact assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic on Namibia (SEIAC-NAM, 2020), with specific focus on the economy, the social sector and the people most at risk (United Nations, 2020a).¹ Those identified as the people most at risk include women, girls and female-headed households, people living with HIV and AIDS, persons with disabilities and co-morbidities, the elderly, workers in the informal sector, people living in informal settlements, rural and urban poor, orphans and vulnerable children, adolescents and youth. It is, therefore, based on the findings of the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Namibia (SEIAC-NAM) and its policy recommendations, that the UN System has developed this Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (SERP).

The aim of the SERP is to provide the Key Strategic Interventions (KSIs) that the UN System in Namibia will implement over the period of 12 to 18 months to assist the GRN in its response to and recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The support is provided based on the five pillars of the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 (United Nations, 2020b) and the strategic priorities earmarked by the Government in key policy documents. The five pillars are:

1. Health first: Protecting health services and systems during the crisis;
2. Protecting people: Social protection and basic services;
3. Economic response and recovery: Protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and informal sector workers;
4. Macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration; and
5. Social cohesion and community resilience.

The KSIs are summarized in Annex 1 of the Plan, along with details on their costing, alignment to relevant SDGs, relevant indicators to monitor the progress in the implementation of the Plan, and the agency tasked with leading and coordinating the implementation and monitoring the progress made against the KSIs every quarter.

There are three crucial takeaways from the SEIAC-NAM that motivate the proposal for these KSIs and link them across the five pillars. Firstly, there is a need to support vulnerable populations, including informal sector workers, rural and unemployed youth, women and children vulnerable to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and individuals with health problems other than COVID-19, among others. Secondly, there is a need for institutional strengthening, by consolidating supply chains and enhancing the efficiency in the delivery of essential services. The third element refers to the setting and the need to immediately initiate structural transformation and increase policy coherence.

To achieve the above, it is important to enhance the enablers for inclusive economic growth and livelihood improvements, including the inclusion of digitalization, technology, innovation, alternative sources of financing and the use of modern, sustainable and green energy sources. In order to address these three factors, this SERP proposes KSIs in support of an inclusive post-COVID-19 recovery, so the country can build back better from the pandemic.

¹ The assessment is a result of the collaboration between an Inter-University Technical Team (IUTT) comprising three academic institutions – the University of Namibia (lead), Namibia University of Science and Technology, and the International University of Management – and the UN Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT).

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF COVID-19

The Key Strategic Interventions (KSIs) presented in this Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (SERP) are recommendations that stem from the key findings of the SEIAC-NAM. As stated, the aim of the SEIAC-NAM was to present an analysis of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on various socio-economic development indicators, including poverty and inequality, economic growth, and the social sector, such as health, education and social protection for the people most at risk. This section presents key findings from the SEIAC-NAM to provide context to the SERP's recommended KSIs as part of effort of the UN system to support Namibia's recovery plan.

AN ECONOMIC SHOCK

The pandemic's negative economic impact manifests itself through different channels of transmission, including global and local supply chain disruptions, massive layoffs and the spreading of uncertainty across the economy, leading to reductions in consumer spending, business investment and government revenue. The contraction in GDP during the second quarter of 2020 was bigger than anticipated, largely due to the longer-than-anticipated easing of COVID-19 containment measures: both 2020 GDP contraction estimations from the SEIAC-NAM (5.5% of GDP estimated by UNECA) and the revised economic outlook of the Bank of Namibia (7.8%) were optimistic compared to the 11.1% estimated by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA). According to the Ministry of Labour, Industry Relation and Employment Creation (MoL), during the first and second quarters of 2020, about 9,232 people were retrenched. Namibia's trade deficit is expected to be exacerbated, with net exports declining between 2% and 3% by the end of 2020.

STRUGGLING DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES

Despite experiencing a 47% growth in the second quarter of 2020 due to good rainfalls after the drought of 2019, the Namibian agricultural sector is bound to take a hit due to the adverse impact of the pandemic. The closure of farmers' markets has led to limited access to markets for fresh fruits and vegetables; exports of live cattle and sheep; and exports of Swakara pelts, which have declined by 52.8%, 80.7% and 90%, respectively (NAU, 2020). The manufacturing and construction sectors are forecasted to contract by 9.2% and 5.7% in 2020, respectively (BoN, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on the services sector, with tourism suffering a catastrophic blow.

The State of Emergency that was put in place from April to August 2020 to contain the spread of COVID-19, entailed closure of borders, which adversely impacted 96.5% of businesses in the sector. Particularly hard-hit sub-sectors are the conservancies and the wildlife economy, which represent a considerable 20.3% of employment in the tourism sector (NSA, 2020).

AN EXACERBATION OF POVERTY AND INEQUALITY LEVELS WITH IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Employment and income losses in the labour market have weakened the purchasing power of the poor, compromising their access to food and other basic necessities (UNICEF, 2019). UNECA estimates from the SEIAC-NAM show that the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to increase poverty levels from a baseline of 17.2% to a value between 19.5% (best-case scenario) and 21.6% (worst-case scenario). This means that approximately 105,600 more people, of which 45,400 are children, will fall into poverty and be in urgent need of social protection (United Nations, 2020a). With regards to unemployment, UNECA projects an increase of between 0.75 (best-case) and 1.4 (worst-case) percentage points, bringing the unemployment rate up from 33.4% to 34.2% and 34.5%, respectively. This is expected to increase inequality levels, as vulnerable populations, including women,² workers in the informal sector, rural workers and unemployed youth, are disproportionately affected by the crisis.

A HEALTH SYSTEM STRETCHED BEYOND ITS LIMITS

The sector experienced a 6% output growth in the second quarter of 2020 due to a surge in employment of health workers to assist in containing the pandemic (NSA, 2020). However, the pandemic has revealed serious health system weaknesses, including under-capacitated staff, inefficient management systems, supply chain disruptions, bottlenecks in the procurement of modern contraceptives, maternal and newborn health products and medication for patients living with HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, diabetes, cancer and other chronic diseases, as well as an unequal distribution of well-equipped health facilities across the country that can ensure the continuity of static and mobile service provision.

A SURGE IN GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

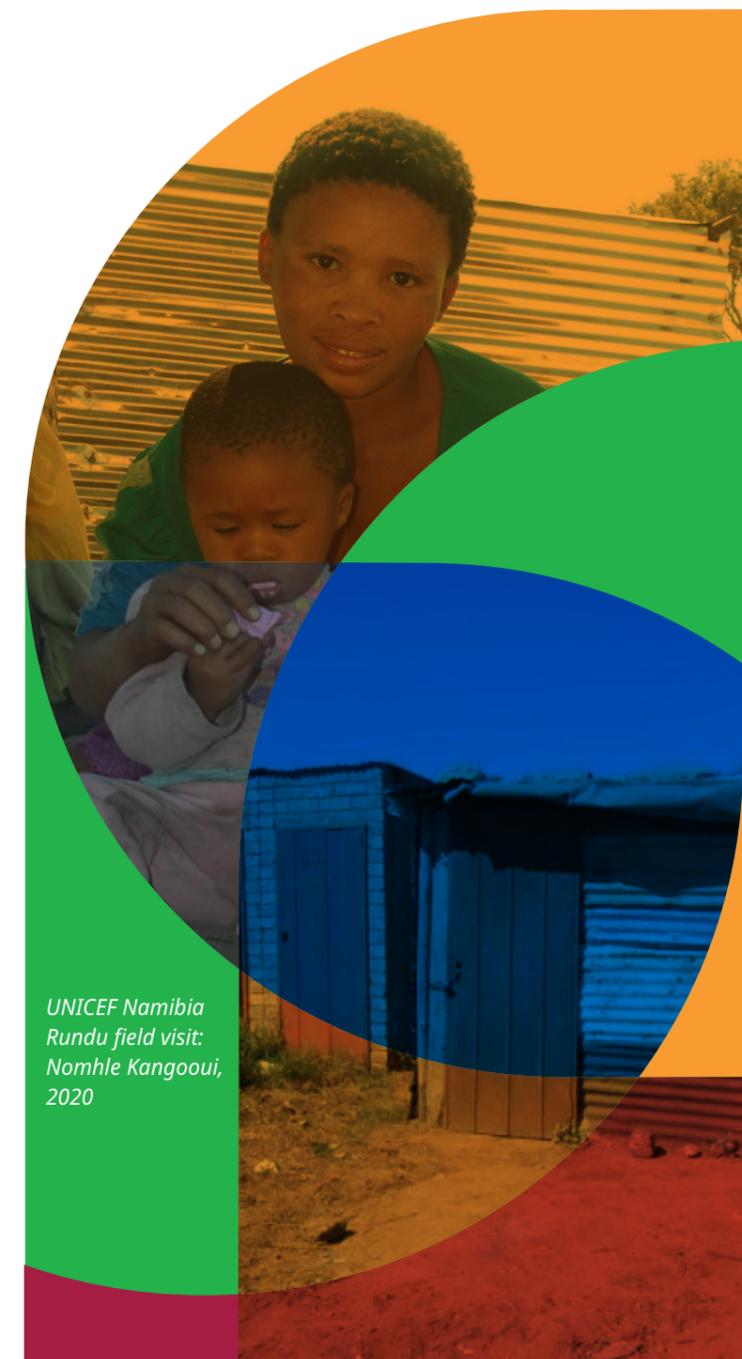
As communities around the world are forced to stay at home, women and girls are at heightened risk of domestic violence, intimate partner violence, child abuse and other forms of GBV. While in the three (3) months leading up to the State of Emergency (SoE) and confinement (December 2019–February 2020), the Namibian Police Force recorded 1,353 cases of GBV, during the SoE (April–July 2020), the police recorded 1,706 GBV cases and 230 cases of child abuse. Particularly striking is the decline of reported GBV cases during the months of confinement (226 in April and 221 in May), compared to the month before (493 in March) and after (354 in June and 412 in July) the lockdown. The sudden change in historical trends during the confinement implies an underestimation of real cases, as the lockdown measures made it much harder for women and girls to report GBV and abuse or seek help.

INCREASED VULNERABILITY DUE TO HOUSING SHORTAGES, FOOD INSECURITY AND LOW SANITATION

One of the main reasons behind increases in the transmission of COVID-19 has been housing, water and sanitation shortages – especially in the Erongo region – which made social distancing difficult or impossible. This issue is aggravated in rural and the poorest households, as well as among people living in informal settlements. Specifically, only 34% of the country's population has access to good sanitation facilities, a value that drops to 14% in rural areas.³ In addition, rising food prices and the loss of school feeding programmes due to the closure of schools have aggravated food insecurity in Namibia, especially amongst vulnerable children and poor households.

A DISRUPTION IN THE CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION AND LEARNING

The sector has been considerably impacted by the measures put in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19. It has led to a loss of learning and socializing opportunities for children, a lack of learners' access to school feeding programmes and the sudden need for working parents to provide alternative care for children. In addition, the adverse effects of the pandemic have been exacerbated by the scarcity of affordable and available technology and internet connectivity to facilitate continued learning for poor households, rural dwellers and children with disabilities, while adhering to social distancing protocols. Access to Early Childhood Development (ECD) was not spared either, negatively impacting outcomes for children.



UNICEF Namibia
Rundu field visit:
Nomhle Kangooui,
2020

²This is because women in Namibia are largely engaged in the informal sector (61.2% of women are in the informal sector) and other vulnerable forms of employment, including self-employment in small business and domestic work, leaving them likely to be excluded from formal social protection measures for workers (NSA, 2019). In addition, many female workers are employed in the hardest hit economic sectors, including tourism and hotel services.

³https://www.unicef.org/namibia/Sanitation_fact_sheet_print.pdf

SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN: THE FIVE PILLARS OF THE UN IMMEDIATE SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE TO COVID-19

As stated in the introduction, the aim of this SERP is to define the Key Strategic Interventions (KSIs) that the UN System in Namibia will continue to implement as part of its efforts to support the national recovery drive of the GRN from the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the country's economy, social sector and especially the people most at risk. Due to the need for urgency in action, these Key Strategic Interventions are intended to be short-term but catalytic, with an implementation period ranging between 12 and 18 months. These interventions are structured around the five pillars of the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19. In Annex 1 of the Plan, details on KSI activity components, their costing, SDGs addressed and chosen indicators for monitoring the progress in their implementation along with the lead agencies are presented.

PILLAR 1: HEALTH FIRST

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impose challenges on the health sector and countries' economies across the world, it has brought unprecedented strain on health workers, health systems, public resources and facilities, including hospitals and clinics. The disease has revealed serious challenges in healthcare delivery systems, which is likely to have lasting impacts on patients, service providers and health system financing and management. Namibia is no exception to this reality, given the limited capacity of its health services and considering the vulnerability of the economy to both internal and external shocks. Therefore, the recovery process will require effective improvement and sustained management of health systems to support efficient healthcare delivery services. In this regard, the following Key Strategic Interventions of support are recommended as part of the recovery process to facilitate a health system that is more responsive and resilient.

1.1. REVIEW AND STRENGTHEN EFFICIENCY OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM AND DELIVERY OF EMERGENCY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES

The health system will require the strategic intervention of the Government and its development partners, such as strengthening its capacity to efficiently deliver essential healthcare services to the population. According to the Government Expenditure Framework for the 2020/21 financial year, the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) was allocated N\$7.9 billion, or 12.4% of the total non-statutory N\$64.3 billion budget. In addition, N\$727 million were allocated from the economic stimulus and relief package approved by the GRN in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, the N\$7.95 billion health allocation is 15.7% higher than in 2019/20, with two thirds of that increase stemming directly from the COVID-19 emergency budget. Based on the current national budget for 2020/21, it is the second highest allocation after basic education. Of this budget, 46.4% (more than N\$3 billion) represents wage payments. Furthermore, 80.1% of the health budget goes to curative and clinical care, which is further divided into 55% for employment and 37% for procurement of goods and services. Specific response measures and interventions that could strengthen the health system's efficiency and delivery of essential services are listed as follows:

- Empower healthcare workers (including community health workers) with knowledge and skills on Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC), triage, referral, case management, surveillance and response, including data reporting, risk communication and community engagement, to strengthen the emergency response at facility, community and household levels.
- Support the review of One Health regulatory requirements and the legal basis of all potential health measures (i.e. implementation of national health action plan to improve health security). Planning in advance for any future epidemics or pandemics will increase system resilience and reduce the system's vulnerability to potential crises in future.
- Strengthen GRN's governance and coordination mechanisms for emergency response and the continuity of essential health services at all levels – national and sub-national.
- Protect and strengthen the continuity of quality essential health services for:
 - *Persons living with HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases*, as well as those living with non-communicable diseases. One of the key findings of the SEIAC-NAM is that as the COVID-19 pandemic takes its toll on the economy and population, treatment for other diseases risks being neglected or put aside. Since non-communicable diseases (NCDs) account for 41% of deaths each year (WHO, 2016) and communicable diseases (CDs), such as tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS, are significant causes of death, the resource reallocation to combat the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have dire consequences in Namibia.⁴
 - *Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services.*
 - *People suffering from malnutrition.* According to the Namibian Vulnerability Assessment Committee first round report (OCHA, 2019), which was published by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), over 289,644 people were found to be food insecure and in need of immediate food assistance, an issue that the COVID-19 pandemic is bound to aggravate.

- Develop and implement a health plan to ensure vaccination for the population against COVID-19. With a highly probable rollout of vaccines in 2021, it is imperative that the Namibian health system is prepared accordingly. The UN System can help by:
 - Supporting Risk Communication and Country Engagement (RCCE) on the COVID-19 vaccine and outreach programmes.
 - Supporting procurement and cold chain upgrading for vaccine storage.
 - Supporting forecasting, planning and distribution of the vaccine once it arrives.
 - Coordinating and providing quality assurances of the vaccination programme.

1.2. EXTEND THE SOLAR FOR HEALTH INITIATIVE TO POWER RURAL HEALTH FACILITIES AND PROTECT VULNERABLE PEOPLE

The UNDP Solar 4 Health Programme is aimed at addressing the lack of electricity supply in low-demand health facilities (i.e. clinics) by installing photovoltaic panels (PVs). The need for this project originates from the fact that these health facilities tend to be isolated from higher-density areas, and consequently lack access to the main national electricity grid managed by NamPower. To this day, the initiative, conducted in collaboration with the Global Fund and the Ministry of Health and Social Services, has managed to install solar panels in eleven (11) rural clinics in Namibia, located in the Omusati and Hardap regions. The benefits of this project are numerous, as it ensures the quality of health products by maintaining the cold chain system, provides access to health services for vulnerable people (e.g. women of child-bearing age, children, people with chronic diseases, such as HIV and AIDs) and also enables the reduction of carbon emissions by using renewable energy sources (UNDP, 2018). Since many vulnerable people susceptible to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic live in these rural and low-income areas, it is crucial to increase financing and expedite implementation of this initiative at more clinics. With regards to the implementation schedule, on-site assessments could be carried out over a period of three (3) months in various rural areas in need of this project, with an installation period under eighteen (18) months. Since there has already been an implementation of this project in eleven (11) rural clinics, lessons learned and challenges faced can already be considered to improve delivery. It is estimated that US\$25,000 per installation will be needed to satisfy the electricity demand of rural clinics (UNDP, 2020).

1.3. STRENGTHEN NAMIBIA'S PUBLIC PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAINS THROUGH DIGITIZATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT

Pharmaceutical management is constrained by several barriers that severely affect the system's efficiency in its capacity to procure medicines, leading to disruptions in the availability and service delivery of essential drugs, and consequently to poorer health outcomes. These barriers include procurement delays due to sub-optimal practices within the MoHSS and at the Central Procurement Board of Namibia (CPBN), low value (low threshold limit) local procurements at high prices, and logistics and supply-management challenges in delivering medicines to health facilities. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed the vulnerabilities of local pharmaceutical supply chains and increased the necessity for immediate action for its long-term management. As the country's import gateway for medical commodities is almost entirely linked to the South African suppliers' market, there is an urgent need to improve access to and availability of medical commodities. For this reason, it is deemed necessary to support the GRN in achieving improved health outcomes through strengthened Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Management Systems (PSCM). This can be done by:

- Improving the enabling environment for Pharmaceutical and Procurement Management Systems through a revised procurement policy and competition bill;
- Improving pharmaceutical staff's capacities through training, supervision, change management and programme implementation support;
- Building new storage facilities through logistics, planning and procurement support; and
- Digitizing public supply chains through automated business processes and enterprise resource planning, including real-time tracking systems.

1.4. FACILITATE ACCESSES TO PHARMACEUTICAL GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS

Health is a commodity that needs constant recharge, as the health labour force is instrumental to overall economic productivity. As stressed in the SEIAC-NAM, the pandemic outbreak magnified the country's procurement weaknesses and its access to both global value chains and a diverse set of suppliers for pharmaceutical goods. The country suffered a great loss through delays and over-reliance on few suppliers for medical-related products, as its health facilities quickly ran out of critical medical products for non-communicable diseases, family planning and psychotic drugs. A crucial reason for this issue is Namibia's strong dependence on South African imports. During the pandemic, South Africa implemented strict measures on the export of pharmaceutical products and other medical-related products, deeply affecting Namibia. As part of economic recovery, which involves expenditure efficiency and decreasing sources of vulnerability in the health sector, it is necessary to increase the health system's capacity to effectively procure essential medical sundries and pharmaceuticals through pooled and global supply channels. In this area, UN development partners could be quite helpful in the following ways:

- Support the development of a strategy for the central medical stores to institutionalise the pooled procurement and long-term contracting for Government.
- Provide technical assistance for identifying alternative procurement channels that the MoHSS can tap into to create a pool of suppliers. Once the procurement channels have been identified, a cost benefit analysis should be done to draw comparisons to India and South Africa, from where the MoHSS procures most of its pharmaceutical and medical goods. The comparison should take into consideration how quickly the products can be imported and other logistical issues. This information should be regularly updated and could be compiled in a booklet for use by the procurement department.
- Facilitate the procurement process for medication and pharmaceutical products. The MoHSS should streamline its procurement process for medication and pharmaceutical products, including developing a comprehensive procurement guideline for the procurement department. The procurement guideline should emphasize competitive sourcing for medication and pharmaceutical products. In 2019, the UN supported the MoHSS by developing a temporary pooled procurement mechanism. This initiative could be institutionalized to address the frequent shortage of essential medicines and supplies.

⁴ From a statement by the Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr. Kalumbi Shangula, on September 18, 2020.

1.5. STRENGTHEN INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR BETTER MONITORING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSES AND DELIVERY OF ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES INCLUDING THE USE OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

- Support the design and implementation of an integrated health management information system and technologies, such as telemedicine, and smarter use of data for surveillance and tracking of epidemics or pandemics. With the increasing likelihood of COVID-19 vaccines becoming available in 2021, the importance of a strengthened information system capable of ensuring vaccine distribution to all Namibians cannot be overemphasized. More effective data utilization would allow for better decision-making, even beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, and improve resilience within the system. To do so, the UN should support the development and rollout of a COVID-19 pandemic contact tracing application (app) and information provision to the public to maximize the use of the application. In addition, the UN should advocate for the approval and implementation of the final draft e-Health strategy.
- Strengthen Government's capacity to mine, analyse and utilize primary health data to monitor and respond timeously to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on essential Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (MNCAH) and nutrition services, as well as strengthen data utilization for decision-making beyond COVID-19.

1.6. PROVIDE STRATEGIC SUPPORT IN ATTRACTING AND RETAINING SKILLED HEALTH WORKERS

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented strain on the health sector, increasing the demand for skilled physicians and health workers to care for COVID-19 patients. The recruitment of additional Human Resources for Health (HRH) is a major cost in the MoHSS's COVID-19 response expenditure, which totaled 88% (N\$727 million) of its budget.⁴ Although this year's increase in HRH was aimed at addressing the immediate needs arising from the negative impacts of COVID-19 on the health sector, it also closes Namibia's HRH gap, already present before the pandemic. While Namibia counted 0.4 physicians and 2 nurses per 1,000 population, the worldwide average for other Upper Middle-Income Countries (UMICs) was 1.9 and 3.4 per 1,000 population, respectively (UNICEF, 2020). To assist the GRN in preparing for a possible second wave of infections and sustain the initiative of increased staff, it is recommended to provide financial and technical support for the recruitment and retention of health professionals and auxiliaries.

By supporting the implementation of the HRH Strategic Plan, it will be possible to complement the GRN's efforts in addressing the human resource gaps in the upcoming months.

1.7. RETRAIN AND OFFER MONTHLY GRANTS TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

As stated in the SEIAC-NAM, distance and transport costs from a household to a clinic have limited rural and informal settlement dwellers from accessing certain basic health services, with the lack of digitalized health services (e.g. telemedicine) exacerbating the issue. To address this problem, the Government deployed voluntary community health workers (CHWs) in informal settlements and villages to provide relevant medical information in vernaculars. The strategy has shown positive outcomes for the population.

However, their status as voluntary workers puts considerable financial constraints on CHWs, which in turn affects the long-term sustainability of this initiative. Given their importance in disseminating health information and providing services to people who cannot reach clinics, it is crucial for CHWs to receive financial support. The UN can intervene in this regard by providing grants to CHWs, while working on innovative ways to ensure the financial sustainability of retaining jobs through this structure. Over the next months, the UN can also facilitate an assessment of the impact of CHWs on remote communities in terms of providing vital health information and care. Based on the findings of the assessment, a strategy outlining how the GRN or MoHSS could capitalize on the versatility and outreach of the CHWs and assimilate them into the mainstream of the country's health system could be drafted.



MCHD in Tapuwa Mutseyekwa, 2014

"HEALTH IS A COMMODITY THAT NEEDS CONSTANT RECHARGE, AS THE HEALTH LABOUR FORCE IS INSTRUMENTAL TO OVERALL ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY."

PILLAR 2: PROTECTING PEOPLE

2.1. PURSUE IMPLEMENTATION OF SHORT-, MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM WASH MEASURES TO CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Stopping the spread of COVID-19 needs to be embedded in the country's sanitation policies, providing access to clean water for everyone. The need to roll out and expedite a sanitation strategy became clearly evident from the outset of the pandemic, as certain schools could not conduct classes due to sanitation issues. Temporarily, tippy taps and water containers were installed in informal settlements to ensure access to water beyond just washing hands. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) availed N\$10 million from the national budget as subsidies to the water utility and local authorities to ensure reliable provision of water. To address the water and sanitation issue, the UN System can:

- Build water points in informal settlements. The UN can join hands with municipalities, specifically the City of Windhoek, to build water points in informal settlements as a sustainable solution for sanitation issues. The city has prioritized sanitation and the provision of ablution facilities. Synergies can be derived from joining this initiative by specifically targeting provision of water points for the current or next financial year. The UN can provide capital, and facilitate and monitor the building of water points under the city initiative, benchmarking on the Swakopmund water points initiative, which now serves a significant number of households.
- Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving sanitation management and sustainable behavioral change to eliminate open defecation, through Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS).
- Continue to support strengthening of WASH initiatives in schools, including through CLTS in schools. The importance of WASH in schools has been recognized globally by its inclusion in the SDGs (targets 4.a, 6.1, 6.2) as key components of a 'safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environment'. In this regard, efforts will be made to strengthen partnerships with Regional Governors and Regional Committees to advocate for the importance of WASH in the prevention of diseases.

2.2. SCALE UP SOCIAL PROTECTION TO THE MOST VULNERABLE SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION THROUGH CASH BASED TRANSFERS

One of the programmes most widely used by governments and development organizations worldwide to assist populations in times of crisis is the Cash Based Transfer (CBT). A CBT entails the provision of monetary assistance in the form of physical cash to targeted segments of the population. In the global context, the main objective of the provision of CBTs is to assist vulnerable members of the population, especially those whose socio-economic conditions have been considerably weakened during crises, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic. The CBT, which will be provided through the World Food Programme (WFP) in collaboration with UNICEF, is a valuable tool that can achieve different objectives, including food security, improved health and nutrition outcomes, as well as support to livelihoods. The CBT will be distributed to households in urban informal and rural settlements in the Khomas and Omusati regions. The Government will also introduce the Basic Income Grant (BIG) as part of its social assistance programme to build resilience of vulnerable Namibians. The primary objective is to enable vulnerable populations to cope with challenges present before and since the advent of this pandemic. Through these initiatives, the UN agencies seek to contribute to the overall social protection interventions of the Government.

2.3. IMPLEMENT MALNUTRITION TREATMENT PROGRAMMES IN THE MOST AFFECTED AND VULNERABLE REGIONS

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the MoHSS has mobilized most of its resources to combat the spread of the virus and treat infected people, which makes it more crucial than ever for development organizations to support Government in addressing other health-related issues. One of these concerns, which directly relates to food insecurity, is malnutrition. For this reason, the UN System plans to mobilize resources to support the national programmes already being implemented and close any coverage gaps in nutrition, specifically in four (4) highly affected regions, namely Khomas, Omusati, Ohangwena and Hardap. This will be done by:

- Supporting the implementation of nutrition-specific interventions in the health sector within the four (4) regions. The programme will focus on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, specifically on the first 1,000 days after childbirth. Maternal nutrition will be prioritized to ensure that pregnant women have access to high-quality antenatal care, including iron and folate supplementation and PMTCT services. In addition, education and counselling support for appropriate nutrition during and after pregnancy and appropriate feeding of infants and young children will be provided at facility and community levels through CHWs.

As such, an important part of this intervention will be to strengthen the capacity of CHWs to provide quality support and care.

- Since improving nutrition proves unsustainable when the majority of food is imported from other countries, efforts could be made to connect the nutrition-specific interventions in the health sector to small-scale farmer-producers around the region. This directly connects to the Pillar 3 recovery intervention of providing input subsidies to small-scale farmers to increase their production.
- Implementing malnutrition treatment programmes in the four (4) most affected and vulnerable regions. This programme is aligned with the Pillar 1 Key Strategic Intervention to strengthen the capacity of health institutions to deliver essential services, focusing on the prevention, identification and treatment of malnutrition. It includes actively screening and treating acute malnutrition through the health sector. The programmes will target all children with acute malnutrition nationwide, with quality improvement activities taking place in the four (4) targeted regions.

2.4. INCREASE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY OF CURRENT EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE TO ADDRESS WEAKNESSES UNEARTHED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The country endured intermittent closures of schools and concomitant suspension of classes between April and August 2020, causing deep disruptions in the education sector. Worsening the situation, the existing infrastructure gap between rural and urban schools limited the Government's ability to take a collective stand on resumption of schools (UNICEF, 2020). These disparities in school equipment and (digital) infrastructure prevented the Government from rolling out a nationwide e-Learning programme to temporarily replace face-to-face classes, as a measure to slow down the spread of COVID-19. As reported in the SEIAC-NAM, there is a lack of digitalization of governmental and educational services, as well as electrification of urban schools, a problem even more prevalent in rural schools. This puts the majority of Namibia's children at risk of not being engaged in virtual learning, dropping out of school, being exposed to various forms of exploitation and abuse, including early marriage and child labour (UN, 2020a). Therefore, in the more immediate term, it is recommended to invest in telecommunication infrastructure to enable e-learning, and that the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture design programmes for learning from home to complement face-to-face teaching. To this end, the following strategic interventions are proposed:

- Support the continuation of home-based learning by considering offline modalities for the immediate future. Alternative education channels that UNESCO has helped to implement include radio and television broadcasts, as well as household delivery of schoolwork (UNESCO, 2020b). Support should also focus on the adaptation of the curriculum to focus on key competencies and the development of continued learning materials to reach learners from vulnerable communities without access to radio, television or online teaching.
- Support continuity of Early Childhood Development services, especially in vulnerable communities, through improved hygiene facilities, adaptive learning and supplementary feeding.
- Conduct a thorough assessment of educational infrastructure, prioritizing ICT and telecommunication infrastructure, then water, sanitation and ablution facilities in schools and hostels, especially in rural areas, to provide insights on where the country stands in terms of addressing the gaps and ensuring access to quality education for all. The findings can subsequently be used to support the development of investment cases for school infrastructure improvements.
- Support the finalization and implementation at school level of basic education regulations and child-centered amendments to the Basic Education Act, 2020 (Act No. 3 of 2020), which would ensure access for learners with physical disabilities, provide support for underperforming schools and define standards for infrastructure.
- Strengthen the implementation of the National Safe Schools Framework and the Integrated School Health and Safety Programme.

2.5. ACCELERATE EFFORTS TO REDUCE ALL FORMS OF DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A major concern arising as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic is the increase in Gender-Based Violence (GBV), mainly towards women and girls, due to confinement measures. As populations worldwide are forced to stay at home, women and girls face heightened risk of domestic violence, intimate partner violence, child abuse and other forms of sexual violence and GBV (UN, 2020a). To ramp up efforts in combating all forms of domestic violence and avoid losing advancements in gender equality (SDG 5), it is necessary to consider the following strategic interventions:

- Support the expansion of crisis support services and family friendly policies aimed at helping women, children and adolescents who witness and/or are victims of violence, abuse and exploitation. Strategies include GBV hotlines, the establishment of safe spaces and shelters, integrated sexual and reproductive health services, GBV services, as well as police and justice mechanisms in line with the UN Essential Services Package (UN Women, WHO, UNFPA, UNODC and UNDP, 2015). In this regard, UN Women and the UNFPA can assist, as these UN agencies have already supported the GRN in the development and printing of GBV referral pathways for all 14 regions.
- Increase gender disaggregated data collection to facilitate progress in reducing gender-related inequality in Namibian society. Some measures to capture discrimination against women in social institutions across all stages, including the OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), have not been adopted in Namibia. Efforts should be made to include this index and others to improve the monitoring of progress of this issue. The UN can use this in its new partnership with the NSA, enabling the agency to include the SIGI as one of its indexes to monitor the progress being made in gender equality.
- Support the design and operationalization of employment generation and economic empowerment initiatives for women in order to ensure inclusivity in the economy. Programmes to increase inclusivity could be aligned to Pillar 3 with regards to women and youth in both the informal and tourism sectors, and Pillar 4 concerning women and youth employment opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
- Intensify remote access to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services.

- Assess the streaming and responsiveness policies of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.
- Promote the ratification and implementation of Convention 190 on the prevention and elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work.



UNICEF Namibia Rundu field visit:
Nomhle Kangooui, 2020

PILLAR 3: ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

The SEIAC-NAM found that the Namibian economy contracted due to global and local supply chain disruptions, layoffs and the spreading of uncertainty across the economy, leading to reductions in consumer spending and business investment. With the current objective being to revive production in the Namibian economy and stimulate aggregate domestic demand to create a virtuous cycle of supply and demand, it is vital to identify the sectors with the best prospects of enhancing sustainable economic development. In the short term, activities that are currently subdued due to low private consumption must be stimulated. Ideally, the revival strategy of the national budget should focus on this stimulation, because Namibia's economic recovery will depend on people and businesses spending money. In other words, the Namibian Dollar must circulate in the domestic economy as much as possible. Therefore, the following strategic interventions are proposed:

3.1. DEVELOP A REBUILDING STRATEGY FOR AND SUPPORT THE RECOVERY OF THE TOURISM SECTOR

It is crucial to diversify a country's production sector, as solely depending on one sector, such as mining or agriculture, can result in numerous problems (e.g. price volatility or high dependence on earnings from sales of primary commodities). The tourism industry is a significant sector in Namibia, contributing 15% to the country's GDP and employment in 2019 (Luke, 2020). In addition, there is vast potential for growth once the effects of the COVID-19 crisis have dissipated. Although the tourism sector has undoubtedly suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic, its revival is crucial for Namibia's future economic development. Most of the revenue generated by the tourism sector is derived from foreign visitors, with only around 10% stemming from local tourists, since the majority of Namibians cannot afford tourism services, even at heavily discounted prices. The main aim is to stimulate domestic tourism and reduce the sector's dependence on income from foreign tourism. Although this measure is unlikely to offset revenues from international tourists, it could be a way to keep the sector afloat. Therefore, the short-term Strategic Key Interventions to be considered are:

- Support the specialized agency for tourism, the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The UNWTO has been actively guiding the sector's recovery from this unprecedented crisis. To reflect the new challenges, it has worked directly with its African member states, including Namibia, to adapt the 2030 Agenda for Africa: Tourism for Inclusive Growth.⁵

Consequently, it is necessary to ensure inclusion of UNWTO initiatives in the tourism recovery response in order to drive recovery in a coordinated manner. Along with the UNDP and UNESCO, the UNWTO aims to advocate for the Africa Brand, empower youth and women through tourism-related businesses and activities, advance the sustainability agenda and promote cultural heritage.

- The UN can provide support in the formulation and implementation of tourism sector policies and strategies, such as marketing domestic tourism (the current strategy only targets international markets). By promoting domestic tourism, the risk of over-reliance on foreign tourism can be reduced, and around 44,700 direct jobs in the tourism sector can be protected (Government of Namibia, 2020). Another potential policy would be to increase the number of leave days for Namibians by three (3) days, on the condition that these days are used to visit local destinations and support the tourism sector.
- Collaborate with Government to assess the impact and effectiveness of Namibia Wildlife Resort (NWR) and Gondwana leisure cards to enable Namibians to afford traveling. This can be done by increasing domestic tourism incentives (for companies and individuals), including the assessment of the effectiveness of leisure cards in addressing affordability issues faced by a large portion of the population.
- Enhance local destination marketing for local travelers, detailing various packages and destinations available to Namibians. Every Government and private tourism office should avail a tourism guide to local travelers to entice Namibians to explore their country. The UN can contribute funds for the printing of tourism guides to be distributed in various offices around the country, detailing accommodation options and tourism destinations.

⁵ <https://www.unwto.org/news/unwto-adapts-agenda-for-africa-to-accelerate-tourism-recovery>

3.2. SUPPORT THE VULNERABLE INFORMAL SECTOR BASED ON COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS, FACILITATING PHYSICAL VISIBILITY AND ENHANCING ONLINE MARKET PLATFORMS

The informal sector has suffered significant income losses due to lockdown measures, which has led to a decline in domestic consumption (Evelina, Samuel & Lukas Homateni, 2020). Since a whopping 57% of the labour force (418,674 Namibians) is employed in the informal sector, reduced economic activity from this sector is bound to have significant impacts on GDP (NSA, 2019). Government rolled out a stimulus package of N\$8.2 billion that extended an Emergency Income Grant (EIG) of N\$750 to informal sector workers. However, the package mainly benefited the formal sector, since the qualifying criteria stipulated that beneficiaries be registered taxpayers and members of the Social Security Commission. The EIG did not factor in income losses of informal traders, as Government was unable to quantify these losses or the number of participants in the informal sector. To address this issue, the UN System in Namibia has identified various programmes and initiatives that could assist this large segment of the population in the medium term:

- As part of the recovery, the UN should advocate for stronger physical visibility of informal traders using evidence-based findings from assessments of the informal sector. The UNDP is currently undertaking a comprehensive nationwide diagnostic of the informal sector to provide updated data on its characteristics, as well as the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on it. Since the lockdown measures were imposed, vendors in the informal sector have suffered severe income losses, increasing their vulnerability as well as the vulnerability of their dependents. The UN System could advocate for the GRN to issue a local authority policy through Cabinet, accommodating informal traders in a well-organized manner. The directive should enable vendors and informal traders to be formally positioned in central business districts on a temporary basis in order to increase their visibility and expand their customer base.
- Advocate for the GRN to institute a formal registration and classification process of vendors at the local authority level. This would require a partnership with various municipalities to formalize the registration system. Vendor registration could be considered the first entry of business registration and would create a valuable database of micro-traders that municipalities could use to inform town planning and infrastructure development that is inclusive of street traders.

- The UN could itself facilitate the visibility of informal workers in Namibia. Strategies could include:
 - Facilitating pop-up markets for informal producers and vendors to showcase their products and access certain markets they could ordinarily not reach.
 - Advocating for the construction of infrastructure that can accommodate persons with disabilities working in the informal sector. To ensure that the 'Leave No One Behind' principle is implemented, it is necessary to make the market an accessible, safe and inclusive place for traders and customers with disabilities.
 - Enhancing the Buy Local initiative currently underway by bringing local products closer to potential consumers.
 - Organizing exchange programmes for informal traders in different regions to enable them to attend trade fairs around the country. This could be realized by offering transportation or securing stalls for informal traders at events like the SMEs Expo and the Ongwediva/Okakarara Trade Fair.
- Work with the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI), Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development (MIT) and the Namibian Trade Forum (NTF) to create an informal database, using an agreed definition of what constitutes an informal business in Namibia. The database would include business profiles, support needs and locations.
- After the assessment of the size and characteristics of the informal sector, the UN could intervene with tailor-made interventions for women and youth in the sector, with small grants to assist with input procurement, capacitation of skills and entrepreneurship training.
- Support initiatives for online market trading and delivery platforms. A critical tool in mitigating the negative effects of social distancing measures on economic activity is the development of online market platforms. These virtual trading platforms can connect vulnerable informal workers selling a variety of goods, such as fresh produce or meat, to a bigger market of consumers, while eliminating the risk of COVID-19 infection. Various initiative are already underway, such as a collaboration between the Namibia Accelerator Lab and the Tambula Online Shop to launch an e-commerce platform. In the upcoming year, the UN could scale up support to initiatives such as these, and in partnership with the private sector, continue to assist vulnerable workers to recover income loss. In summary, such measures would reduce the spread of COVID-19, while contributing to the modernization and digitalization of the Namibian economy.

Namibia Nyae Nyae
Conservancy Development
Foundation

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3.3. INCREASE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND VALUE ADDITION OF CLINICAL SUPPLIES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

The high dependence on clinical imports negatively impacts the operationality and efficiency of the health sector in Namibia. As stressed in Pillar 1, national capacity is lacking due to low to non-existent local value addition in clinical supplies. The MoHSS Annual Purchasing Plan indicates a recurring demand for certain clinical products that are currently sourced externally, specifically from South Africa and India. In 2019 alone, the MoHSS spent N\$958 million on the procurement of clinical products from foreign countries. This expenditure on imports is a leakage in the Namibian economy, as it is not recovered in any way by the treasury, nor does it create employment in the country. Public expenditure on clinical products, together with private sector demand, presents an opportunity to increase local manufacturing. In addition, disruptions in international supply chains for clinical products have left Namibia's health sector vulnerable. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a window of opportunity for Namibia to stimulate manufacturing of clinical products through partnerships. The UN can assist by seeking organizations willing to partner with domestic clinical producers and provide financing and skill-sharing necessary for scaling up small-scale manufacturing of clinical products in Namibia. Partnerships would increase the production capacity of the country's manufacturing sector and thereby increase supply. The UN could be the link between development agencies and domestic entrepreneurs in the global clinical sector. Depending on the success of such partnerships, they could be extended to medical and clinical technology, since the MoHSS currently outsources the maintenance and repair of medical and clinical machines to experts from China.



3.4. SCALE UP THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDG IMPACT FACILITY TO INCREASE MSME PARTICIPATION IN KEY ECONOMIC AREAS

In an effort to suppress the spread of COVID-19, the GRN's stringent limitations on business operations occasioned by the lockdown have increased the rate of youth unemployment in Namibia, affected trade in goods and services, and threatened the survival of many micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Jobs and livelihoods have been lost due to the loss of business and liquidity following temporary closures during lockdown. Now more than ever, it is necessary to provide support to Namibian MSMEs, which are crucial for creating job opportunities and sustaining inclusive economic growth. A programme that is currently being implemented by the UNDP and the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development – in partnership with the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia and Standard Bank Namibia – and that could provide much needed support to MSMEs, is the Sustainable Development Goal Impact Facility (SDGIF). This 2-year pilot programme seeks to develop and promote support for MSMEs by combining capital and technical expertise, tailored to meet specific financing needs. The goal is to increase the socio-economic impact of MSMEs in order to enable them to become potential suppliers for local and regional value chains. By doing so, the SDGIF will contribute to ensuring that MSMEs take advantage of the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area. The SDGIF aims to do so through two main channels:

1. Provide mentorship grants and debt financing to women and youth in business, social enterprises and MSMEs to facilitate access to affordable finance.
2. Offer competitive matching grants for increased MSME participation in three (3) key areas: Sustainable agriculture, nutraceutical and artisans; Sustainable tourism and manufacturing; and Renewable energy and information technology.

Support grants are worth up to N\$50,000 and are accompanied by business development services as well as health checks throughout the 6-month grant contract period. Accommodating criteria apply for vulnerable MSMEs that are not formally registered, but are willing to be included in the formal economy in order to be eligible for the support.

3.5. PROMOTE AND ENSURE THE INCORPORATION OF THE CHALLENGES OF NAMIBIAN MSMEs INTO THE NAMIBIAN EMPRETEC PROGRAMME

The objective of the Namibian EMPRETEC Programme⁶ is to promote entrepreneurship at the MSME level. Specifically, it aims to bring about transformational change by unleashing the growth potential of MSMEs in Namibia through entrepreneurial mind-set changes, skills training and the provision of a comprehensive range of business development advisory services. The pilot project will target 1,650 unemployed Namibians. As experience from EMPRETEC programmes in other countries shows, at least 30% of graduates go on to establish businesses and create employment. Therefore, the expected outcome of the Namibian project is to create a minimum of 1,400 jobs by 2022. The programme is also intrinsically linked with the Harambee Prosperity Plan, the 5th National Development Plan (NDP 5), the Blueprint on Wealth Creation and the Poverty Eradication and MSME Policy. The UN should continue to support the initiatives of EMPRETEC Namibia and the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare to include unregistered vulnerable MSMEs in business development training.

3.6. ADVOCATE FOR POLICIES THAT FACILITATE PRIVATE-SECTOR RECOVERY, PARTICULARLY MSMEs

To support full recovery from the pandemic, UNECA has called for US\$100 billion to be extended to Africa for economic emergency stimulus, including a debt standstill, the financing of a special purpose vehicle for commercial debt obligations, and provision of extra liquidity for the private sector, especially MSMEs (UNECA, 2020). MSMEs play a significant role in the attainment of SDGs, especially in the areas of ending poverty, reducing inequality, and protecting the planet. This ability has been seriously weakened due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses and workers in both the formal and informal sectors. While it is primarily the GRN's responsibility to provide an environment conducive to business and enact policies that could strengthen fragile private entities, the UN can assist with capacity-building programmes for struggling MSMEs and advocate for key interventions, such as the following, to support Namibia to build back better from the pandemic:

- Provide capacity-building programmes to increase MSMEs' competitiveness. The UN could mobilize resources to increase the tendering capacity of MSMEs and equip them with technical skills to bid for local government and public tenders. This could be done by providing virtual and in-person training on public procurement regulations and on the completion of bidding documents for MSMEs in all of Namibia's 14 regions.

In addition, a channel could be created by UN agencies in collaboration with relevant government institutions to provide trainees an opportunity for further queries on tendering processes. For instance, to continue giving advice and avoid future in-person training, MSMEs could forward their queries to a training hub at no cost.

- MSME capacity building in bidding procedures can be accompanied by an assessment of the reasons why the public sector has not yet implemented the Local Sourcing Directive issued on May 23, 2019. This directive was designed to allocate a certain percentage of work to local suppliers. The UN can facilitate a diagnostic study, the results of which can be used to design tailor-made capacity building training for MSMEs.
- Install ICT infrastructure at community halls and facilities owned by the MIT. This would enable virtual training and facilitate query resolution in various regions, especially in rural and semi-urban settings, which would in turn promote inclusivity and equitable distribution of work opportunities around the country.
- Strengthen linkages across national and international development partner support structures/platforms for MSMEs. The UN can strengthen linkages by collaborating with the MIT, the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Namibia Trade Forum to formalize a national platform that constitutes national and international development partner MSMEs and support initiatives for better MSMEs support coordination.
- Advocate for the implementation of the Modified Single Buyer (MSB) model. Adopted by the GRN in April 2019, the MSB rules determine the new market platform for the electricity industry in Namibia. Allowing "transmission electricity consumers and Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to transact with each other directly for the supply of electricity" would incentivize decentralized investment in renewable energy sources and reduce currently elevated utility production costs (Government of Namibia, 2019). However, despite the MSB having been adopted more than a year ago, it is yet to come into force. As a result, investment and a reduction in production costs in the Namibian energy sector have been considerably delayed. By advocating for the Electricity Control Board (ECB) to expedite the process, the UN would support the acceleration of cheaper electricity provision to the currently vulnerable private sector and especially MSMEs.

⁶ Launched by the UNDP and the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development in October 2019.

3.7. STRENGTHEN NAMIBIAN FOOD SYSTEMS TO RECOVER FROM EMERGENCIES AND DISEASE-RELATED SHOCKS THROUGH THE BUILD BACK BETTER (BBB) PROGRAMME

The need to achieve food security in Namibia has never been more urgent than now. According to the SEIAC-NAM, 40% of food consumed in Namibia is imported from other countries. Furthermore, heavy droughts in 2019 vastly reduced agricultural output. Rising food prices during the COVID-19 pandemic have further exacerbated the problem and constrained the population's purchasing power. In addition, given the accelerated urban expansion and rising urban poverty in Namibia, there is an emergent need to prioritize food security for poor urban households. The Build Back Better programme, which is run by the UNDP in collaboration with FAO and the Japan International

Cooperation Agency (JICA), aims to achieve food security targeting a total of four hundred (400) women, youth aged between 19 and 29 years, and persons with disabilities, who operate in the informal sector as food vendors and small-scale or individual producers in four (4) pre-selected municipalities in four (4) regions. The programme will be coordinated by the GRN under the Harambee Comprehensively Coordinated and Integrated Agricultural Development Programme, which is based on the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP). The objective is to empower informal food vendors to become more resilient in order to attain food security and pursue sustainable livelihoods, to transform the urban and peri-urban landscapes into centres of excellence in food production, and to improve food supply chains to become more locally sustainable, resilient and disaster responsive.

In order to achieve these objectives, the programme proposes to:

- Support safe markets and hygiene infrastructure in informal food markets in response to COVID-19, to safeguard the livelihoods of the vendors during and beyond the pandemic.
- Restructure the urban market sector to strengthen the local food supply chain mechanism.
- Strengthen the institutional capacity of entities and individuals responsible for the administration, regulation and monitoring of current food supply systems.
- Provide support to the Horticulture Value Chain Development Scheme through the establishment of market units in urban areas, thus supplementing the initiative to establish National Fresh Produce Business Hubs.
- Leverage partnerships established through the Namibia Accelerator Lab Hackathon project with local e-commerce platforms and other similar digital solutions to encourage e-wholesale sourcing of produce.

Currently, dependence on rain-fed farming is crippling agricultural production, and the small portion of commercial farming units that use irrigation either have inefficient infrastructure or incur extremely high power costs to pump water for irrigation. To address these issues, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MoAWF) has focused its reforms on small-scale producers that are strategically positioned in various green schemes and resettlement farmers. Considering what has already been done to improve the country's agricultural sector, the following strategic key interventions could be considered:

- Provide crop production input to green schemes for early planting to reduce operational costs. Moreover, it is recommended to scale up local agri-input factories and capacitate seed growers with research capability to enable them to produce seeds suitable for Namibia's soil. The seed growing projects initiated by the MoAWF need to be scaled up to ensure sufficient supply of quality seeds. Synergies are achievable since the MoAWF is already involved in the production of certified seeds to be provided to seed cooperatives.
- Support a full roll-out of the purchasing of farming implements and inputs, including Solar for Water Pumping for farmers in five (5) targeted local communities. Some of the farms in the selected communities have borehole installations with underground water, but high electricity costs are a barrier to increased production.
- Support the promotion of climate-smart conservation agriculture, ensuring that it becomes part of national agricultural policies. This can be done, for instance, by providing subsidies to commercial and communal farmers who implement climate-smart agriculture.
- Provide research and support to enable the MoAWF to invest in tools and technologies that support agriculture in semi-arid places (e.g. drip irrigation and agriculture inputs).
- A subsidy initiative should also target small-scale female farmers who are dominating the green schemes, such as the Etunda Irrigation Project.
- Pilot a sustainable fodder production facility in one of the livestock areas or upgrade a fodder production facility in an existing green scheme to demonstrate its financial viability and sustainability.
- Provide support to smallholder farmers via the promotion of Decent Work for Food Security and Resilient Rural Livelihoods.

3.8. PROVISION OF PRODUCTION SUBSIDIES FOR AGRICULTURAL INPUTS, PRODUCTION OF FODDER AND CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES

As highlighted in the SEIAC-NAM, two challenges are currently affecting Namibia's agricultural inputs and food security. Firstly, the country is a net importer of agricultural inputs (fertilizer, animal feed and others) for the production of livestock and crop farming. According to the Agro-Marketing and Trade Agency (AMTA), Namibia's requirement for domestic cereal is estimated at 300,000 metric tons, while production currently stands at only 140,000 metric tons. Horticulture statistics are similar, with the country importing 52,000 metric tons (64%) of fresh produce and only producing 28,000 metric tons locally. Secondly, due to the increase of livestock input costs as a result of the escalating prices of animal feed, production costs currently exceed returns of livestock farming (NAU, 2020). In addition, fodder production potential has yet to fully materialize: Agribusdev, which is mandated to manage the eleven (11) government green schemes, indicated that although only one green scheme currently produces animal fodder (Lucerne), it is possible to extend production to other green schemes. An additional challenge is the ongoing lack of water for sustainable and continuous farming practices.



PILLAR 4: MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION

Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bank of Namibia in its Economic Outlook had estimated annual GDP growth to be 1.5% in 2020 and 1.4% in 2021. These estimates have since been revised, with growth predicted to contract between 7.8% (best-case scenario) and 12.2% (worst-case scenario) in 2020 and to rebound at around 2.1% and 2.7% in 2021 and 2022, respectively (BoN, August 2020). These projections are based on the combined effect of social distancing, the countrywide lockdown and the closure of Namibia's borders. Relative to the fiscal position of the country, it is estimated that the increase in the fiscal deficit from a baseline of 6.3% of GDP will be between 11.2% (best-case scenario) and 14.1% (worst-case scenario) in 2020. In the long term, this suggests the need to diversify the revenue-generating capacity of the country into various sources and to kickstart the process of industrialization and structural transformation put forth by the 5th National Development Plan (NPC, 2017). For the short term, key strategic areas of interventions include:

4.1. ADVOCATE FOR GOVERNMENT POLICIES THAT ARE INFORMED BY SEIAC-NAM KEY FINDINGS AND THAT PROTECT THE POPULATIONS MOST AT RISK

In line with the key findings of the SEIAC-NAM, the UN System in Namibia could assist the Government by providing much needed support to at-risk populations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic through measures such as the following:

- Coordinate advice on additional fiscal measures or the extension of current ones to ensure that the stimulus package promotes equity, gender equality and support to the most vulnerable groups in Namibian society. The UN could advocate for the treasury to lower its loan guarantee to enable and facilitate the recovery of businesses. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the GRN promised to guarantee loans for businesses and households at 1/12 of their tax payment in 2019. Given that the economy has already been performing poorly since 2016, many companies incurred tax losses, causing them to not be in good standing with the Receiver of Revenue. As a result, such companies could not apply for government guaranteed loans or relaxed loan terms during the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the immediate recovery plan, and in order to encourage productive asset uptake by the private sector, requirements for the scheme could be back-dated two financial years, depending on Government's resources. This will allow more businesses and households to meet the qualifying criteria, which would further support the operations and sustainability of MSMEs.

Consequently, this would complement the UN proposals under Pillar 3 for MSMEs, namely the SDG Investment Facility, EMPRETEC and capacity building for tendering processes.

- Assist the GRN by reviewing fiscal and labour policies to strengthen and build resilience within the agricultural sector. Possible measures include revising the current fiscal position of small- and large-scale farmers and cooperatives, enhancing the green scheme programme, and utilizing the capital market to fund the agricultural sector. For instance, the GRN could use its presence in the capital market to mobilize excess funds across markets to finance the domestic agricultural sector. The UN could collaborate with the Bank of Namibia, the African Development Bank and the Namibian Development Bank to explore the possibility of listing an Agri-bond in the Namibian Stock Exchange within the next 12 months. This intervention would raise funds by utilizing the country capital market and stock exchange, thereby stimulating investment in domestic ventures that aim to upgrade production processes and productivity in the agricultural sector. In addition, the UN could provide assistance by advocating for additional labour-market policies with the objective to provide the Namibian population with employment opportunities in the primary sector and achieve food security.
- Assist the GRN in developing a comprehensive National Resilience Strategy (NRS) that targets the poorest segments of the population, as well as vulnerable and socially excluded groups. The objective of the NRS would be to increase access to markets and services, and employ strategies aimed at reducing risk and barriers to entry for smallholder farmers and vulnerable groups. It should also promote measures for adapting to climate change, which should be considered in policymaking, as Namibia is one of the African countries most vulnerable to climate change-related disasters (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2020).
- Assist and advise the Government to systematically analyse and assess the quality of gender-responsive efforts in COVID-19 crisis recovery policies.

4.2. UN JOINT PROGRAMME ON INTEGRATED NATIONAL FINANCING FRAMEWORK

Namibia has been in an economic recession since 2017 and has been facing considerable fiscal challenges since 2015 (United Nations, 2020a). Traditional sources of revenue, including taxation and revenue from trading with Southern African Customs Union (SACU) countries, are not enough to finance development projects, and as stated in the SEIAC-NAM, the COVID-19 crisis has increased both government expenditure and the fiscal deficit. In an effort to solve this problem, the UN has developed the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) Joint Programme⁷ in collaboration with the GRN through the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission. The objective of the INFF Joint Programme is to effectively link planning and budgeting and support the GRN to develop a gender responsive SDG financing strategy aimed at identifying and leveraging alternative and innovative sources of development financing to support national development priorities, and ultimately, the realization of the SDGs. It is also aimed at promoting efficiency in spending and connecting financing and related policies with long-term objectives. The Joint Programme will build on the recommendations of the development finance assessment (DFA), completed with the support of UNDP and GIZ in 2019. As an integral part of the Joint Programme, additional assessment will be undertaken to consider the impact of COVID-19 on the development financing landscape. The establishment of a national public-private sector dialogue platform is envisaged to bring together public and private finance policy and institutions with the aim of deepening the approach towards financing to support the realization of the SDGs. In addition, a national financing dashboard will be established through the Joint Programme to monitor and communicate progress on the financing flows to key stakeholders, as well as garner the support and involvement of the private sector in the INFF process.

4.3. LEVERAGE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA)

The AfCFTA aims to eliminate tariffs on 90% of all traded goods between African countries and is set to become the largest Free Trade Area in the world, with the market potential of around 1.2 billion people and an aggregate GDP of approximately US\$2 trillion.

A recent World Bank report (2020) estimates that Namibia is among the African countries that stands to gain the most from joining AfCFTA, potentially seeing income gains of over 10% by 2035. In addition, Namibia will incur minimal revenue loss due to tariff elimination since 90% of Namibia's total imports come from within the SACU where trade is already duty free. To fully capitalize on the benefits that could arise when trade under the AfCFTA begins on January 1, 2021, it is recommended that the GRN, along with other SACU members, delivers its schedule of tariff concessions to the AfCFTA implementors. The UN System can assist GRN to adequately prepare the country to take advantage of opportunities presented by the AfCFTA, including enhancing current productive capacities of MSMEs and the agricultural and manufacturing sectors, as well as building on finance and logistics of the service sector. One way of achieving this is to assist with the compilation of a list of Namibian products that have export potential, specifically those made in emerging manufacturing sectors across the country, and to support the development of a national strategy to facilitate the country's engagement in the AfCFTA. The effort should also assess the participation of women and youth in the value chain created by the production sector before exporting. Such assessment could provide a country map and enable the efficient allocation of assistance and resources to enable competitiveness for the growing manufacturing sector with export potential. The latest NSA study, titled Informal Cross Border Trade Survey, assesses the informal low volume trade between Namibia and its neighboring countries at its small border posts, namely Ariamsvlei, Calai, Noordoewer, Omahenene, Oshikango and Wenela. The NSA further disaggregated the data in terms of gender participation, indicating the number of women participating in cross border trade. The data can be used as a starting point for developing strategies to assist women to enhance their competitiveness. The survey found that 64.7% of low informal imports at the six border posts is done by women, while 66.7% of informal export is done by men. The UN can partner with the NSA to enable the collection and analysis of more disaggregated data that can be used to determine how women and youth can be supported to build economies of scale.

⁷ Developed by the United Nations in collaboration with the GRN through the Ministry of Finance and National Planning Commission. Implementation will be supported by UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and ILO, with funding from the SDG Fund.

The UN could assist the Government in devising an AfCFTA national strategy, including readiness assessments and sector studies, to enhance country preparedness and maximize the benefits and capacity for industries to seize opportunities presented by the agreement. This can be done by:

- Identifying the type of support needed by the private sector to create a competitive edge and enable large-scale production. This support should be segregated at the sector level and divided between the informal and formal sectors.
- Identifying markets with trade opportunities for Namibian products and services (identified) to create a competitive advantage for on-market mapping based on existing African export destinations. Together with support for the implementation of the AfCFTA initiative (with the UNDP as lead agency), the aim is to posit an African single market that works for MSMEs, especially those led by women and youth.⁸ The UNECA technical assistance projects “Global Initiative Towards Post-Covid-19 MSME Sector” and “Innovative Approaches for MSME Competitiveness” can be entry points into this process.

The reduced fiscal space that Namibia’s Government currently faces needs to be considered. According to the Ministry of Finance 2020 Budget Review, public debt is estimated at 68.8% of GDP and the budget deficit is at 10.1% of GDP for the current financial year. This fiscal constraint will limit the GRN’s capacity to implement its AfCFTA strategy, as it requires both policies and expenditures to assist the private sector to take advantage of various markets in Africa. As a development partner, the UN could help the GRN and the MoF by assessing how budget resource reallocation could allow for the funding of the drafting of an AfCFTA strategy. This is crucial, as benefits from the AfCFTA are not automatic and need to be invoked and facilitated through public and private partnerships.

4.4. SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 6TH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

With the 5th National Development Plan (NDP 5) drawing to a close during the 2021/2022 financial year, preparations for the 6th National Development Plan (NDP 6) are already underway. The underlying uncertainty surrounding the timeline of recovery from the pandemic makes it extremely difficult to estimate the resources available as well as the most pressing concerns that the NDP 6 will need to address upon its inception in 2022. It is not too early to state that the NDP 6 will face considerable challenges, including the fiscal deficit aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, a vulnerable population and a country recovering from a health crisis.

The importance of the NDPs lies in the fact that they are, along with the Harambee Prosperity Plan, a reference point for all policy interventions undertaken by the Government. As such, the UN System in Namibia could assist the GRN in the development of the NDP 6 by providing technical assistance in conceptualization and information provision based on numerous assessments realized during the past years and the COVID-19 pandemic, clearly displaying the lessons learned. The UN System could leverage its comparative advantage in its vast network of development partners and ensure adherence to the all-inclusive and participatory development process that will characterize the NDP 6 so as to ensure that the ‘Leave No One Behind’ principle of the 2020 Agenda is fully implemented.

PILLAR 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Based on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, which has tested the cohesiveness and resilience of nations and their citizens, there is a strong need for the Government of Namibia to develop the capacity of national and sub-national institutions. With the support of its development partners, including the UN System, the Government should aim to build a cohesive society and resilient institutions, capable of anticipating, analysing, preventing and responding to disasters such as the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, several Key Strategic Interventions are recommended to support the recovery process of the country, as outlined hereunder.

5.1. SUPPORT VULNERABLE POPULATIONS’ REPRESENTATION DURING RECOVERY FROM COVID-19 TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL COHESION

The measures implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19 have put strain on societal relations and deeply affected vulnerable populations. While social distancing has had an “impact on children and adolescents in terms of mental health and psycho-social support systems,” efforts to reduce forms of gender inequality risk being reversed (United Nations, 2020a). Many women have had to adopt the role of main caregiver for children and other family members, thereby becoming more financially dependent on male relatives. Since women have fewer educational and labour market participation opportunities, the UN considers it crucial to implement initiatives aimed at empowering women and girls facing challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the UN supports immediate action by strengthening inclusive dialogue and advocacy within vulnerable segments of the population, to improve institutional quality and build a more cohesive society. Field assessments are recommended to properly evaluate the impact of the pandemic on the status of various vulnerable groups.

The GRN can collaborate and forge partnerships with international organizations, including UN Women, UNESCO, UNDP and the European Institute for Gender Equality, to provide women and other affected segments of the population with mentoring on leadership skills and disaster risk reduction and recovery, to accompany the initiatives proposed under Pillars 3 and 4. Furthermore, it is suggested to assist national Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in disaster preparedness and response to ensure their engagement as partners in time of disaster/other crisis/health crisis such as COVID-19. To ensure the ‘Leave No One Behind’ guiding principle, these initiatives should include organizations that represent key interests of vulnerable groups of the population, including women and youth organizations, organizations for persons with disabilities, federations of slum dwellers (e.g. the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia), national human rights institutions, religious organizations and indigenous community organizations.

Oshivelo ECD

⁸ A report, which is a part of this programme, will be launched at the Extraordinary Summit of the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government on 5 December 2020. It will share ideas from a select group of African practitioners (comprised of MSMEs, technology firms and service providers, among others) on practical information about how people and firms could benefit from the AfCFTA.



UNICEF Namibia
North field visit:
Nomhle Kangooui,
2020



Inclusive
Education US
Fund Kiwanis:
L. Narib

5.2. CREATE OR STRENGTHEN SPACES OF SOCIAL DIALOGUE FOR INCREASED COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

During times of crises, it is crucial to foster social dialogue at grassroots level to give communities the opportunity to express their concerns on community issues, such as social development and GBV, to challenge harmful patriarchal rules and practices, and to advocate for women empowerment. Social dialogue can also address ignorance of and stigma associated with various medical conditions. Moreover, community resilience can be built by sharing health information, advancing agricultural methods and improving community policing. Key Strategic Interventions that could enhance social dialogue include:

- Strengthen the capacity and outreach of community workers to disseminate health-related information, either by diversifying their skill set or recruiting staff with different types of expertise. The deployment of Community Health Workers (CHWs) is one possible strategy. As stated in Pillar 1, the presence of CHWs in small and isolated communities can facilitate social dialogue aimed at sharing critical information on health and nutrition and destigmatizing disease.
- Train GBV representatives and counsellors in communities to facilitate dialogue and create a space for village members to access support and counselling.
- Encourage and advocate for community policing to unite community members in a common cause, which can encourage discussion of various safety issues within the community. The UN can enhance skills and offer materials to guide the facilitation of dialogue through community policing.
- Support and facilitate advocacy to reduce the stigma against persons with disabilities at community, regional and national level.
- Support and facilitate intergenerational dialogue between the older generation and youth in order to close the gap in knowledge of indigenous and contemporary norms and cultural practices.

- Reduce the social stigma against people living with HIV and AIDS by advocating for the revision of the Public and Environmental Health Act, 2015 (Act No. 1 of 2015). In terms of Communicable Diseases (CDs), such as COVID-19, the Act makes provision for notification and isolation. Since the Act classifies HIV and AIDS as CDs, this provision also applies to people living with HIV and AIDS. However, with more than 200,000 Namibians currently living with HIV and AIDS and taking medication, HIV/AIDS should be reclassified as a chronic disease. This reclassification is vital in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, because any person with a disease classified as a CD is at risk of suffering increased discrimination and stigmatization. The UN can compile a short paper of evidence for policymakers, explaining why and how this change in legislation would reduce stigma.
- De-urbanize CSOs to be more vocal and practical in rural areas, by funding and creating capacity in rural area based CSOs that facilitate knowledge sharing and enable dialogue within communities. The UN can identify such CSOs and individuals who have an influence in communities and provide them with the necessary capacity building support to enhance their knowledge and skills on matters of importance to communities.

5.3. INCREASE PROTECTION TO COMMUNITY-MANAGED CONSERVANCIES AND HELP PRESERVE THE WILDLIFE ECONOMY

As a sub-sector of the tourism industry, conservancies and the wildlife economy have been particularly hard-hit by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. Employment in the 86 Namibian communal conservancies, which represent 20.3% of employment in the tourism sector and are run by local residents, is at risk.⁹ Specifically, the sector supports 500 community game guards and rhino rangers, 300 conservancy support staff, and 1,175 locally hired tourism staff. In 2018, jobs in the wildlife economy represented between N\$65 million and N\$80 million in wages and salaries. The reduction in income in this sector not only threatens income generation of local populations but also has dire consequences for the environment and wildlife preservation. While half of the projected N\$60 million income loss in the sub-sector would have been used to cover conservation management costs and human wildlife conflict, the rest would have supported social development projects in the community (United Nations, 2020a). Income loss will deeply impact the considerable progress achieved in protecting life on land, such as the 60% decrease in poaching in Namibian conservancies in 2019 as a result of greater intelligence and law enforcement operations. To counter the negative effects of the pandemic, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism has launched the Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility. Through this initiative, the tourism sector has benefitted from financial contributions from national and international partners amounting to N\$26 million (Lendelvo, Pinto & Sullivan, 2020). Community conservation is one of the underutilized sectors and channels for enhancing the livelihoods of Namibians living in rural areas. Its protection will enhance cohesion, as communities work together to prevent poaching and the destruction of the natural habitats of animals. In the long term, capacity building and awareness creation will be required. Moreover, the benefits of conservation have to be quantified and spread equitably within communities to ensure the participation of community members. In Namibia, a prevalent lack of accountability and transparency undermines development. Community conservation, as a form of livelihood, holds vast potential for rural and local economic development that does not destroy but rather rebuilds communities, if transparency and accountability can be enforced and the capacity of community members can be enhanced.

⁹ These jobs include community game guards, tourist guides, managers, bookkeepers and enterprise officers.

BUILDING FORWARD STRONGER FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: LONG-TERM CONSIDERATIONS

The purpose of this SERP is to identify Key Strategic Interventions with an implementation period of between 12 and 18 months in order to support the Government of the Republic of Namibia in its drive to recover and build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it also provides guidance on strategic interventions to address key issues with a more medium- and long-term focus, in line with the objectives of the NDP 5 (NPC, 2017), the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP), the 2030 Agenda and the upcoming NDP 6. The purpose of this section is to provide ideas for long-term strategic interventions with the objective of creating a more resilient and transformed economy, one that can put Namibia on the path of inclusive, sustainable economic growth and development.



INCREASE THE COVERAGE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES

According to the UNICEF 2020/21 Budget Analysis, Namibia's spending on social protection is relatively high, averaging 8% of total government expenditure and expected to reach 3.4% of GDP in 2020/21 (UNICEF, 2020). However, social protection programmes only cover 16% of the total population. Particularly alarming is the fact that Namibia is the second most unequal country in the world, with an income inequality index of 57 (NPC, 2017). The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the situation, which highlights the need to build a robust social protection system that is shock-responsive, has a larger coverage of the total population, and is better suited to respond to crises.

ADJUST CURRENTLY EXISTING CHILD GRANTS BY INFLATION

The GRN currently distributes N\$250 per month to vulnerable children via the Child Grant and Child Disability Grant, as part of the Child Benefit Programme. However, since the grant amount has not been adjusted since 2010, inflation has led to a 34% loss of its value (UNICEF, 2020). Thus, children, particularly those with disabilities, are unable to afford the same basket of goods that they could previously buy for this amount. The importance of adjusting the grant lies in how well it has already contributed to reducing poverty and inequality.

Since its inception, the Child Benefit Programme has reduced poverty and inequality by 4% and 0.5%, respectively. According to a UNICEF report (2020), doubling the current coverage would reduce poverty by 1.8% and inequality by 0.3% at a cost of around 0.4% of GDP. This would prove to be critical in achieving Sustainable Development Goals, such as No Poverty (SDG 1), Quality Education (SDG 4) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10).

ACCELERATE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN UNEMPLOYMENT SAFETY NET

The slowdown of the economy caused by the first two stages of the State of Emergency led to almost a million people requesting financial assistance, which is alarming since the country does not currently have an unemployment insurance law. Currently, only formal sector workers can access maternity or sick leave benefits, with contributions to social security being divided between employees and employers. On the other hand, informal sector workers, the majority of whom are women and youth, are unable to access the social security programme because they do not make contributions. Thus, the UN System strongly recommends that the Social Security Commission (SSC) drafts an unemployment safety net policy to protect informal sector workers. In the medium to long term, the programme could be financed in part by contributions from informal sector workers. Creating a status of "self-employed" for informal sector workers would be a prerequisite for collecting their monthly contributions, which would be used to provide cover in situations of no income generation.

INCREASE EFFORTS IN HOUSING PROVISION FOR LOWER- AND MIDDLE-INCOME POPULATION SEGMENTS

The demand for housing in Namibia has significantly increased over the past years, due in large part to people (mostly youth) flocking to urban areas to seek income earning opportunities (CAHF, 2019). The skyrocketing demand for decent housing in the country is thus mostly driven by low income earners with limited purchasing power. By the end of 2019, the national average residential property price stood at N\$1,155,468, which is unaffordable for low income earners (FNB, 2019). This explains why the number of people living in shacks (i.e. informal settlements) in urban areas has doubled since 2005, reaching a total of 953,937 people living in 228,000 shacks in 2019 (Namibian Sun, 2019). In line with these statistics, in September 2020 the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD) estimated that the country faces a housing shortage of 300,000 and that an investment of N\$76 billion is needed to address this shortage.¹⁰

This demand creates potential economic opportunities that should be capitalized in order to stimulate economic activities through construction and provision of decent housing around the country. A possible avenue to explore is the domestic cement industry, which had a domestic production capacity of 2.2 million tons of cement in 2020 against a demand of 600,000 tons (First Capital, 2020). This presents an opportunity for Namibians who cannot afford mortgage loans to hire small companies in communities to build houses. It might also be possible to lower the cost of land by creating shared spaces on single plots, and by servicing plots to property developers with the aim of building houses for lower income earners (CAHF, 2019). In addition to making progress in terms of SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), the economic potential of housing at grassroots level, as a form of wealth and collateral assets, would be unlocked.



LEVERAGE INNOVATION AND MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR

INCLUDE DIGITALIZATION IN SOCIAL SERVICES TO MODERNIZE THE SECTOR

The creation of a single social registry would facilitate the effective targeting of poor, marginalized and other vulnerable groups. In addition, developing an integrated management information system for Namibia's social protection programmes would increase management and decision-making efficiency, such as reducing duplication of errors when providing social protection.

DIGITALIZATION OF MEDICAL RECORDS

At present, the Namibian public health system does not have an integrated health system, as medical records are kept manually in physical files. The creation of a centralized and digitalized database of medical records for all Namibians would allow the GRN to access information on the medical history of the population; improve knowledge on the geographical, age and gender distribution of diseases; provide real-time information on material resources and availability of medical staff; make cost estimations and medical investment more efficient; and increase resilience of the health system for the future.

Top: Housing
Below: UNICEF Namibia, Opuwo



¹⁰ From a statement by Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Derek Klazen, during an online public dialogue on Housing in Informal Settlements organized by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.



STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND INDUSTRIALIZATION

Using data and input-output table analysis first developed by Leontief (1941) and a methodology stemming from Ghosh (1958), Humavindu and Stage (2013) review Namibian economic sectors to determine which ones generate the highest output, labour income and employment, and which ones have the strongest linkages with the economy.¹¹ Based on their findings, they recommend policy support for three sectors, namely transport and communications services, selected manufacturing activities (as opposed to manufacturing as a whole) and agriculture. Although the agriculture sector can create employment and achieve food security, it contributes a low percentage to GDP growth when compared to the other sectors, as it allows for low value addition and production diversification. However, the development of the manufacturing sector holds significant advantages, including formal labour opportunities, increased value-addition in production, complexification of an economy's productive range and increases in productivity. Production diversification possibilities are vast, and include storage, fashion and clothing, timber and food processing, tailoring, App-development and digitalization. Finding new production possibilities increases opportunities for creating and integrating regional (or international) supply chains. This could be further enhanced by capitalizing on current Free Trade Areas (FTAs), both regionally (e.g. SACU and SADC) and continentally (upcoming AfCFTA and EPAs). An enabling environment and regulatory framework that can facilitate the import of certain inputs, skills and technology is required to help scale up these sectors in the medium and long term. In this regard, the NSA needs to be capacitated to collect data beyond the big sectors and industries for their national accounts compilation. Production data need to be captured for small and emerging sectors to inform planning and policy interventions. Without an understanding of the production capacity of small sectors, the economy will be fixated on a few known sectors that perhaps reach their full production. The NSA can be capacitated in skills, statistical tools and funding to provide information on the production, employment and export sector capacity and ability of small emerging sectors.

¹¹ The authors use data from 2004, which could be considered outdated. However, there have not been considerable changes in the structure of Namibia's economy since 2004. Agriculture is still the biggest source of employment for Namibians, government services still account for a large part of employment, income generation and GDP, and despite manufacturing playing an important role in formal employment, its overall reach and opportunities in employment still remains limited.

By kickstarting the process of industrialization, as promoted in the NDP 5 (NPC, 2017), Namibia can embark on a road to structural transformation, economic diversification and industrialization.



REGIONAL VALUE CHAINS AND LOGISTICS HUB

INTEGRATION WITH GLOBAL/REGIONAL VALUE CHAINS AND LOGISTICS HUBS

Having a dependable and efficient transport sector is critical for the achievement of any development objective; whether it is attaining food security by connecting farmers with the population, or enabling domestic and international trade and linking domestic industries. In this regard, there have been improvements, with Namibia positioning itself "as a preferred gateway and facilitator of trade for the Southern African Development Community (SADC)" (Fransman, 2017). The GRN has planned to increase the trading capacity of the Walvis Bay port from 355,000 TEU to 1,005,000 TEU, creating an opportunity to become a logistics center for regional and continental trade of intermediate and final goods. Since it is on the south-western coast of Africa, Walvis Bay does not compete with the other large ports on the continent, such as Durban and Richards Bay in South Africa or Beira in Mozambique. In the medium to long term, it is crucial for Namibia to capitalize on its comparative regional advantage in logistics by investing in specific and efficient trade-related infrastructure (e.g. road quality and quantity and highways that connect to landlocked economies). This is crucial for decreasing trade costs and increasing connectivity between locations in supply chains (farmers, storage facilities and agri-processing plants).

INCLUDE DIGITALIZATION IN TRANSACTION PROCESSES

Tapping into the digital economy would make Namibia a regional innovation and technology hub, effectively supporting the country's efforts to build back better and stronger after the COVID-19 pandemic. The digitalization of processes in international trade would reduce transaction and trade costs and serve as a considerable upgrade in trade-related infrastructure, improving Namibia's attainment of SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure). Furthermore, the development of the digital economy would prove instrumental in increasing efficiency in planning, management and monitoring of the Government's development agenda.



WATER PROVISION AND ELECTRICITY GENERATION

DECENTRALIZATION OF ENERGY PROVISION

The decentralization of energy provision would motivate IPPs to enter the market, increasing competitiveness and reducing overall electricity costs, particularly for isolated locations with no access to the main grid. Instead of waiting for the extension of the country gridline, it is recommended to research the feasibility of building microgrids that use renewable energy sources such as solar panels, that could power schools and rural households. Development partners could provide expertise and assistance to research the feasibility of such projects, which would help achieve progress in providing quality education (SDG 4) and affordable and clean energy for all (SDG 7).

DE-RISK AGRICULTURAL SECTOR FROM RAIN-FED PRODUCTION

Currently, the country's grain produce is mostly dominated by rain-fed maize and pearl millet production, and since the vast majority of farmers works far from perennial rivers, they are forced to be seasonal producers. Since food and livelihood security, as well as community cohesion, can be strengthened through agricultural production in most rural areas, intervention is required. A combination of investing in water harvesting technologies, water-efficient irrigation technologies, borehole drilling and water desalination, coupled with energy infrastructure, will ensure that communities have access to water. This will mitigate the impact of prolonged dry spells and droughts, thereby increasing the ability to address food insecurity issues and endemic poverty. However, tapping into water resources requires electricity. Since the country's national grid does not reach every farm, with rural areas generally having less access than urban areas, conventional electricity is neither accessible nor affordable for production purposes. In the medium term, to facilitate access to water supply for production purposes, solar energy could be exploited to pump water: the use of Photovoltaic Pumping (PVP) techniques (i.e. using solar panels to pump water from wells or boreholes) could ensure constant supply to farms outside the national grid. The procurement of solar panels and installations could also generate work for MSMEs and vocational graduates.

De-risk agricultural sector from rain-fed production



EXPLOIT OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO BIOMASS: SUSTAINABLE DE-BUSHING

The spread of encroacher bush poses numerous problems for the agricultural sector – by taking water away from other flora and livestock – and for the tourism sector. However, a multitude of benefits can emerge from this issue. Firstly, if encroacher bush is harvested manually, the labour-intensive task could create employment for the young and rural unemployed (UNIDO, 2019). Secondly, a wide variety of products can be derived from encroacher bush, including charcoal and briquettes that can be sold in international markets, fodder and compost that can be used as fertilizer by Namibian farmers, and biochar which is a soil enhancer and supplement in animal feed. Thirdly, flora and fauna can once more flourish in de-bushed locations, creating grazing for livestock, supporting paper production from grass, and increasing attraction for the tourism industry. Finally, the industry would also stimulate the transport sector, by requiring a functional logistics chain capable of connecting labourers in charge of de-bushing to international markets.



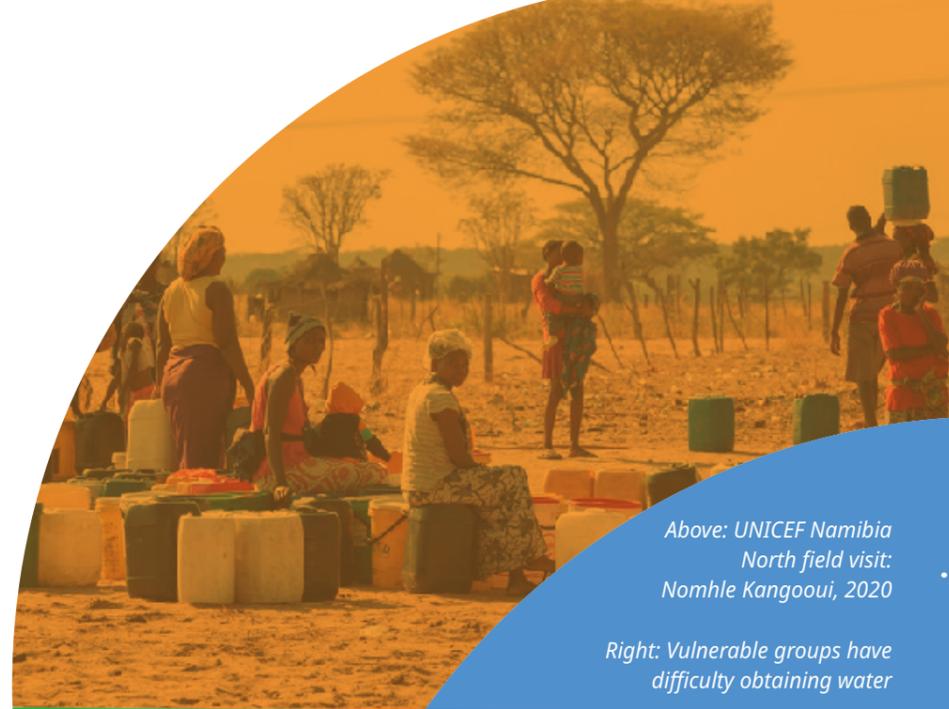
INCREASE RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

IMPROVE QUALITY AND FREQUENCY OF DATA COLLECTION

A recent report of the Institute for Economics and Peace (2020) states that Namibia is among the top three countries facing ecological-related threats. In addition to drought, water scarcity, resource depletion and rising temperatures, the report states that 1.7 million Namibians (68% of the population) experience food insecurity. This highlights the importance of increasing both the quality and frequency of data collection to allow for better monitoring of further damage to agricultural production due to climate change. For instance, developing an indicator of farmers' resilience and exposure to climate change would permit comparisons between individuals, geographic zones and other countries, as well as enable the tracking of the effect of crop diversification on protection from unpredictable changing weather conditions. Key development agencies such as the FAO could provide assistance in this area.

CAPACITATE THE POPULATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES

Since Namibia is bound to be one of the countries socio-economically most affected by climate change, its policymakers, academics, entrepreneurs and development workers should be capacitated to competently address this issue. Thus, it is recommended that the GRN finances programmes and forges partnerships with specialized agencies, such as the Climate Action for Millennials Programme (CAMP) and the Green Climate Fund, to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. In an effort to cultivate climate-conscious leaders and inspire them to take action regarding climate change and sustainable development in Namibia, the CAMP will mentor and coach sixty (60) Namibian university graduates at the Gobabeb Namib Research Institute over a period of five (5) years. The graduates will be equipped with the knowledge and tools to disseminate evidence-based information to Namibian learners through appropriate incentives. The initiative aims to integrate and imbed knowledge of the likely consequences of climate change on economic growth, production, livelihoods and the management of essential resources in Namibia.



Above: UNICEF Namibia North field visit: Nomhle Kangooui, 2020



Right: Vulnerable groups have difficulty obtaining water

“A RECENT REPORT FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS AND PEACE (2020) STATES THAT NAMIBIA IS AMONG THE TOP THREE COUNTRIES FACING ECOLOGICAL-RELATED THREATS.”

Below: UNICEF Namibia Drought: Leitago Narib 2013



KEY GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The key guiding principles that must be utilized when developing the Key Strategic Interventions into programmatic areas and their subsequent implementation, monitoring and evaluation, stem from the United Nations Partnership Agreement Framework (UNPAF) 2019-2023. The UNPAF 2019-2023, which is a collaboration between the UN System and the Government of the Republic of Namibia, outlines the United Nations' support to the realization of the country's Vision 2030 through the implementation of the 5th National Development Plan 2017/18 - 2021/22, the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) and the Blueprint for Wealth Redistribution and Poverty Eradication. The guiding principles of engagement are as follows:

- National and local ownership and leadership of development interventions.
- Ensuring that the Leave No One Behind principle of the 2030 Agenda is mainstreamed in all interventions.
- Forging strategic partnerships with all relevant stakeholders. With the Government in the lead, collaboration must be attained by leveraging the strengths of the private sector, relevant public national and sub-national institutions, academic and research institutions, civil society, bilateral partners, international financial institutions and the UN System under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator and technical leadership of UNDP.
- One UN approach where joint action is required.
- Human rights, inclusive and participatory development approaches.
- Integrated and conflict-sensitive approach.
- Environment-sensitive approach.
- Gender-sensitive approach.
- Effective generation of timely and reliable disaggregated data collection, analysis and dissemination.
- Effective monitoring, evaluation and evidence-based reporting.

To outline the best way forward for Namibia's socio-economic recovery from the current crisis, the Key Strategic Interventions (KSIs) recommended by the UN System in the SERP have a short-to medium-term implementation timeline (i.e. between 12 and 18 months). In the table in Annex 1, the interventions are organized according to the five pillars of the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19, based on which this plan has been structured (UN, 2020b), along with the SDGs that each intervention will help to achieve, as well as a cost estimation of its implementation. The table in Annex 2 details each KSI, the applicable indicators from the monitoring framework of the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19, as well as the lead agency tasked with updating it every three (3) months.¹²

¹² The proposed "programmatic indicators" are designed to enable the UN System to monitor the progress and achievements of UNCT's collective actions in socio-economic response.



Above: UNICEF Namibia North field visit: Nomhle Kangooui, 2020



Below: Dignity Kits



**ANNEX 1 | SERP KSIs AROUND THE FIVE PILLARS OF THE UN FRAMEWORK:
12 TO 18 MONTH IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	RELEVANT SDGs	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE FUNDING (US\$)/ AGENCY	FUNDING GAP (US\$)
PILLAR 1: HEALTH FIRST			8,768,000	2,675,000	6,093,000
1.A. REVIEW AND STRENGTHEN EFFICIENCY OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM AND DELIVERY OF EMERGENCY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES					
Strengthen the health systems' supply chain including the forecasting, quantification and distribution for procurement of essential medicines, pharmaceuticals, supplies, medical equipment, including personal protective equipment, and use of pooled procurement mechanisms and a COVID-19 vaccine	Conduct workshops for forecasting and quantification of essential medicines and supplies	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being	30,000	0	30,000
	Support procurement of COVID-19 related PPE, test kits and related supplies to help address shortfall in supplies		500,000	0	500,000
	Procure essential medicines and commodities, such as contraceptives, to help address shortfall in Government supplies		500,000	0	500,000
	Develop guidance and policy brief on the use of global procurement channels for essential medicines, commodities and supplies		20,000	10,000 (WHO)	10,000
	Support RCCE on the COVID-19 vaccine and outreach programmes		580,000	0	580,000
	Support procurement and cold chain upgrading for COVID-19 vaccine storage		1,000,000	0	1,000,000
	Support forecasting, planning and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine		80,000	0	80,000
	Coordination and quality assurance of the COVID-19 vaccination programme		50,000	0	50,000
Empower healthcare workers (including CHWs) with knowledge and skills on IPC, triage, referral, case management, surveillance and response, including data reporting, risk communication and community engagement to strengthen emergency response at facility, community and household levels	Revise and print SOP, guidelines and job aids on emergency response	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being N°4: Quality Education	80,000	80,000 (UNICEF)	0
	Conduct training for healthcare workers in all 14 regions		140,000	50,000 (WHO)	90,000
	Conduct training for community healthcare workers in all 14 regions		140,000	0	140,000
	Orient healthcare workers on the new COVID-19 vaccine once available		70,000	0	70,000

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	RELEVANT SDGs	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE FUNDING (US\$)/ AGENCY	FUNDING GAP (US\$)
PILLAR 1: HEALTH FIRST (CONTINUED)			8,768,000	2,675,000	6,093,000
1.A. REVIEW AND STRENGTHEN EFFICIENCY OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM AND DELIVERY OF EMERGENCY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES (CONTINUED)					
Support the review of One Health regulatory requirements and legal basis of all potential health measures to plan well in advance for any future pandemics or epidemics (i.e. implementation of national health action plan to improve health security)	Support the dissemination and implementation of the National Action Plan for Health Security	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being	100,000	0	100,000
Strengthen GRN's governance and coordination mechanisms for emergency response and the continuity of essential health services at national and sub-national levels	Support the conduct of meetings and training workshops	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being N°16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	100,000	40,000 (WHO)	60,000

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	RELEVANT SDGs	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE FUNDING (US\$)/ AGENCY	FUNDING GAP (US\$)
PILLAR 1: HEALTH FIRST (CONTINUED)			8,768,000	2,675,000	6,093,000
1.A. REVIEW AND STRENGTHEN EFFICIENCY OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM AND DELIVERY OF EMERGENCY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES (CONTINUED)					
Protect and strengthen the continued delivery of quality essential health services for: - Persons living with HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases, as well as people living with non-communicable diseases - Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health	Provide integrated services, including education on infant and young child feeding, catch-up immunization, vitamin A supplementation, and deworming, as well as supporting breastfeeding protection Support the adaptation of the provision of life-saving interventions through CHWs in high-risk communities, in addition to information provision and active case-finding by the cadre Support improvement of maternal neonatal quality of care at health facility level Support implementation of the roadmap to elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV Support HIV data and COVID-19 strategic information generation and gap analysis to inform HIV and COVID-19 programming Support implementation of Effective Vaccine Management plan and efforts to improve measles-rubella vaccine coverage	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being N°5: Gender Equality N°6: Clean Water and Sanitation N°10: Reduced Inequalities	833,000	188,000 (UNFPA) 50,000 (WHO) 75,000 (UN AIDS) 520,000 (UNICEF)	0

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	RELEVANT SDGs	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE FUNDING (US\$)/ AGENCY	FUNDING GAP (US\$)
PILLAR 1: HEALTH FIRST (CONTINUED)			8,768,000	2,675,000	6,093,000
1.B. EXTEND THE SOLAR FOR HEALTH INITIATIVE TO POWER RURAL HEALTH FACILITIES AND PROTECT VULNERABLE PEOPLE					
Include Renewable Energy Sources to increase provision of social services across the country	Carry out on-site assessments over a period of three months in various rural areas in need of this project Extend the Solar for Health Initiative to 10 clinics in rural and low-income areas	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being N°7: Affordable and Clean Energy N°13: Climate Action N°17: Partnerships for the Goals	25,000 per clinic		
1.C. INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAINS AND ACCESS TO GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS					
Strengthen Namibia's public pharmaceutical supply chains through digitization and infrastructure improvement	Revise procurement policy and competition bill to enable efficient pharmaceutical and procurement management system Improve government health sector and capacity of pharmaceutical staff through training, supervision, change management and programme implementation support Build new storage facilities through logistics, planning and procurement support Digitalized public supply chains through automated business processes and enterprise resource planning (ERP), including real-time tracking systems	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being	3,000,000	602,000 (UNDP)	1,398,000 1,000,000 (Global Fund)
Facilitate accesses to pharmaceutical global value chains	Support the development of a strategy for the central medical stores to institutionalize the pooled procurement and long-term contracting for Government Introduce and connect the MoHSS to UN international procurement channels for pharmaceutical products	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being N°17: Partnerships for the Goals	100,000	0	100,000

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	RELEVANT SDGs	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE FUNDING (US\$)/ AGENCY	FUNDING GAP (US\$)
PILLAR 1: HEALTH FIRST (CONTINUED)			8,768,000	2,675,000	6,093,000
1.D. STRENGTHEN INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR BETTER MONITORING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSES AND DELIVERY OF ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES INCLUDING THE USE OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)					
Support the design and implementation of an integrated health management information system and technologies such as telemedicine, and smarter use of data for surveillance and tracking of pandemics/epidemics	Support the approval and initiate implementation of the draft e-Health strategy	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being	20,000	10,000 (WHO)	10,000
	Support the design and roll-out of COVID-19 pandemic contact tracing App and information dissemination to the public to maximize the use of the App	N°9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	250,000	0	250,000
Strengthen Government's capacity to mine, analyse and utilize primary health data to monitor and respond timeously to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on essential MNCAH and nutrition services and strengthen data utilization for decision-making beyond COVID-19	Training of national and regional focal persons	N°2: Zero Hunger	140,000	10,000 (UNICEF)	130,000
	Review of DHIS2 indicators to include core standard MNCAH and nutrition indicators, and develop dashboards/scorecards to facilitate monitoring and reporting of continued essential health services for MNCAH and nutrition	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being	35,000	15,000 (UNICEF)	20,000
	Procurement of computers and tablets		250,000	0	250,000
	Conduct meetings to validate data		50,000	10,000 (WHO)	40,000
1.E. PROVIDE STRATEGIC SUPPORT IN ATTRACTING AND RETAINING SKILLED HEALTH WORKERS					
Support implementation of the Human Resources for Health (HRH) Strategic Plan 2020-2030	Advocate for implementation to address HRH challenges Support the recruitment of health professionals and auxiliaries to complement Government's efforts to fill human resource gaps	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being	500,000	15,000 (WHO)	485,000
Retrain and offer monthly grants to community health workers	Gather funding to extend grants to CHWs who are still volunteers Realize an assessment on the impact of CHWs on remote communities (vital provision of health information and care) with findings used to draft a strategy on how the GRN or MoHSS could consider the assimilation of CHWs into the country's health workforce	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being	200,000	0	200,000

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	RELEVANT SDGs	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE FUNDING (US\$)/ AGENCY	FUNDING GAP (US\$)
PILLAR 2: PROTECTING PEOPLE			3,152,000	1,383,000	1,769,000
Pursue the strengthening of WASH for vulnerable households and children to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic	Expand access to handwashing facilities in vulnerable communities, including informal settlements Strengthen Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in vulnerable urban and rural communities, including in schools	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being N°5: Gender Equality N°6: Clean Water and Sanitation	220,000	50,000 (UNICEF)	170,000
Scale up social protection to the most vulnerable segments of the population through a Cash Based Transfer	Design and implement provision of Cash Based Transfers to the most vulnerable members of society Define the targeting criteria, number of beneficiaries, payment amounts and payment modalities for Cash Based Transfers and the basic income grant	N°1: No Poverty N°2: Zero Hunger N°3: Good Health and Well-Being N°10: Reduced Inequalities	800,000	0	800,000
Implement Malnutrition Treatment Programmes in the most affected and vulnerable regions (Khomas, Omusati, Ohangwena and Hardap)	Support the implementation of maternal nutrition interventions in the health sector Provide education and counselling on appropriate maternal care to community healthcare workers to improve quality support and care Strengthen the capacity of the health system in terms of prevention, identification and treatment of malnutrition through the acceleration and treat children for malnutrition	N°2: Zero Hunger N°3: Good Health and Well-Being N°4: Quality Education	900,000	900,000 (UNICEF)	0

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	RELEVANT SDGs	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE FUNDING (US\$)/ AGENCY	FUNDING GAP (US\$)
PILLAR 2: PROTECTING PEOPLE (CONTINUED)			3,152,000	1,383,000	1,769,000
Increase the accessibility and quality of current education infrastructure to address weaknesses unearthed by the COVID-19 pandemic	Support the continuation of home-based learning, by considering offline modalities for the immediate future and online learning when possible	N°4: Quality Education	200,000	100,000 (UNESCO) 50,000 (UNICEF)	50,000
	Support continuity of Early Childhood Development services in vulnerable communities through improved hygiene facilities, adaptive learning and supplementary feeding	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being N°4: Quality Education N°6: Clean Water and Sanitation	82,000	45,000 (UNICEF)	37,000
	Conduct a thorough assessment of educational infrastructure, especially in rural areas, to determine where the country stands in terms of addressing the gaps and ensuring access to quality education across the board Develop investment cases for school infrastructure improvements, in line with COVID-19 protocols, for an implementation period of 12 months	N°4: Quality Education	100,000	0	100,000
	Support the finalization of the Basic Education Regulations and a child-friendly version of the Basic Education Act and their implementation at school level	N°4: Quality Education	40,000	20,000 (UNICEF)	20,000

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	RELEVANT SDGs	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE FUNDING (US\$)/ AGENCY	FUNDING GAP (US\$)
PILLAR 2: PROTECTING PEOPLE (CONTINUED)			3,152,000	1,383,000	1,769,000
Accelerate efforts to reduce all forms of domestic and Gender-Based Violence	Support the expansion of crisis support services aimed at helping women suffering from GBV, including the establishment of domestic violence hotlines, safe spaces, sexual health services and justice mechanisms	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being N°5: Gender Equality N°16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	500,000	58,000 (UNICEF)	442,000
	Increase gender disaggregated data collection to facilitate progress in reducing gender-related inequality in Namibian society	N°5: Gender Equality N°17: Partnerships for the Goals	30,000	10,000 (UN AIDS)	20,000
	Support the design and operationalization of employment generation and economic empowerment initiatives for women to ensure inclusivity in the economy	N°5: Gender Equality N°8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	50,000	0	50,000
	Intensify remote access to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being	200,000	120,000 (UNFPA)	80,000
	Promote the ratification and implementation of Convention 190 on the prevention and elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work	N°5: Gender Equality	30,000	30,000 (ILO)	0

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	RELEVANT SDGs	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE FUNDING (US\$)/ AGENCY	FUNDING GAP (US\$)
PILLAR 3: ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY			6,685,000	1,730,000	4,955,000
Develop a tourism sector rebuilding strategy and provide support for its recovery	Consider the UNWTO Agenda for Africa strategy of Tourism for Inclusive Growth to ensure coordinated support for recovery initiatives. Relevant organizations include UNDP, UNESCO and UNWTO, and objectives include: - Advocate the brand Africa - Empower youth and women through tourism - Advance the sustainability agenda - Promote cultural heritage	N°1: No Poverty N°5: Gender Equality N°8: Decent Work and Economic Growth N°10: Reduced Inequalities	450,000	100,000 (UNESCO)	350,000
	Assessment and domestic-responsive strategy development		45,000	0	45,000
	Issue domestic tourism incentives, including leisure cards, and assist in the printing of tourism guides		60,000	0	60,000
	Market local destinations for tourism activities		100,000	0	100,000
	Advocate for three extra leave days for Namibians aiming to explore Namibia		40,000	0	40,000
Support the vulnerable informal sector based on comprehensive assessments, facilitating physical visibility and enhancing online market platforms	Produce an informal sector assessment report to develop evidence for Cabinet directive	N°1: No Poverty N°8: Decent Work and Economic Growth N°9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure N°10: Reduced Inequalities	20,000	0	20,000
	Advocate for stronger visibility of informal sector producers and vendors		10,000	0	10,000
	Provide regional informal sector vendors and traders with secure and visible marketplaces		350,000 (25,000 per region)	0	350,000
	Facilitate cross-regional exchanges, transport to trade fairs and innovation grants		30,000	0	30,000
	Promote the Buy Local, Grow Namibia Initiative at the UN House four times per year		50,000	0	50,000
	Scale up pilot initiative of online market trading platforms implemented by the Namibian Accelerator Lab by collaborating with local businesses		Finance from SDGIF		

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	RELEVANT SDGs	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE FUNDING (US\$)/ AGENCY	FUNDING GAP (US\$)
PILLAR 3: ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY (CONTINUED)			6,685,000	1,730,000	4,955,000
Increase domestic production (and value addition) of clinical supplies through a partnership with the Japanese Government	Link the Japanese JETRO organization with domestic manufacturers of clinical products to enable their scaling up, increase value addition, and reduce treasury spending on imports of clinical products	N°3: Good Health and Well-Being N°8: Decent Work and Economic Growth N°9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure N°17: Partnerships for the Goals	10,000	10,000 (UNDP)	0
Scale up the implementation of the SDG Impact Facility to increase MSME participation in key economic areas	Provide mentorship grants and debt financing to women and youth in business, social enterprises and MSMEs to facilitate access to affordable finance Offer competitive matching grants in these economic sectors for increased MSME participation: Sustainable agriculture, nutraceutical and artisans; Sustainable tourism and manufacturing; and Renewable energy and information technology	N°5: Gender Equality N°8: Decent Work and Economic Growth N°9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure N°17: Partnerships for the Goals	1,000,000	300,000 (UNDP)	700,000

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	RELEVANT SDGs	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE FUNDING (US\$)/ AGENCY	FUNDING GAP (US\$)
PILLAR 3: ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY (CONTINUED)			6,685,000	1,730,000	4,955,000
Promote and ensure the incorporation of the challenges of Namibian MSMEs into the Namibian EMPRETEC Programme	Support enterprise formation to create a multiplier effect of increased employment creation and poverty eradication over the years Assist in creating a network of participating enterprises established to exchange business information and to promote business linkages amongst themselves and eventually with other companies across Africa and around the world	N°4: Quality Education N°8: Decent Work and Economic Growth N°9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure N°17: Partnerships for the Goals	150,000	120,000 (UNDP)	30,000
Advocate for policies that facilitate private sector recovery, particularly MSMEs	Enhance MSMEs' tendering and bidding capacity by providing virtual and in-person training on Public Procurement for MSMEs in 14 regions: One in-person training session per region followed by virtual training sessions Installation of ICT infrastructure for community halls/facilities owned by MIT to facilitate virtual training Strengthen linkages across national and international development partner MSMEs and support structures/platforms Accelerate the implementation of the MSB model for the electricity market to increase MSME competitiveness and incentivize investments in renewable energy sources Impact assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic on business and households in Namibia	N°1: No Poverty N°7: Affordable and Clean Energy N°8: Decent Work and Economic Growth N°9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure N°11: Sustainable Cities and Communities N°13: Climate Action	60,000	0	60,000
			10,000	0	10,000
			30,000	30,000 (ILO)	0

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	RELEVANT SDGs	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE FUNDING (US\$)/ AGENCY	FUNDING GAP (US\$)
PILLAR 3: ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY (CONTINUED)			6,685,000	1,730,000	4,955,000
Strengthen Namibia's food systems to recover from emergencies and disease-related shocks through the Build Back Better (BBB) programme	Support safe markets and hygiene infrastructure in the informal food markets in response to COVID-19 Restructure the urban market sector to strengthen the local food supply chain mechanism Assist the strengthening of institutional capacity of entities and individuals responsible for administration, regulation and monitoring of current food supply systems Provide support to the Horticulture Value Chain Development Scheme Leverage partnerships through the Namibia Accelerator Lab Hackathon project with local digital solutions for e-wholesale produce sourcing	N°1: No Poverty N°2: Zero Hunger N°8: Decent Work and Economic Growth N°12: Responsible Consumption and Production N°17: Partnerships for the Goals	3,080,000	1,080,000	2,000,000
Provision of production subsidies for agricultural inputs and production of fodder	Purchasing of farming implements and inputs, including Solar for Water Pumping for five (5) targeted local communities	N°1: No Poverty N°2: Zero Hunger N°8: Decent Work and Economic Growth N°13: Climate Action	500,000	0	500,000
	Subsidize small-scale farmers at various green places, such as Etunda		60,000	0	60,000
	Support the promotion of climate-smart agriculture, ensuring that it becomes part of the national agricultural policies by providing subsidies to commercial and communal farmers who implement climate-smart agriculture		100,000	30,000 (FAO)	70,000
	Provide research and support to the MAWLR to enable investment in tools and technologies that support agriculture in arid and semi-arid areas (e.g. water harvesting techniques, drip irrigation, targeted agriculture inputs)		200,000	30,000 (FAO)	170,000
	Scale up a sustainable fodder production facility in one of the livestock areas, or upgrade a fodder production facility within a green scheme to demonstrate its sustainability		100,000	0	100,000
	Promote low-tech, sustainable household and community fodder production schemes		200,000	0	200,000
	Support smallholder farmers to promote Decent Work for Food Security and Resilient Rural Livelihoods		30,000	30,000 (ILO)	0

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	RELEVANT SDGs	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE FUNDING (US\$)/ AGENCY	FUNDING GAP (US\$)
PILLAR 4: MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION			1,260,000	1,030,000	230,000
Advocate for governmental policies that are informed by SEIAC-NAM key findings and that protect the most at-risk populations	Coordinate advice on additional fiscal measures or the extension of current ones to ensure that stimulus package promotes support to the most vulnerable, as well as gender equality. A possible policy could be to lower the treasury's loan guarantee requirement to enable business recovery.	N°1: No Poverty N°2: Zero Hunger N°8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	100,000	0	100,000
	Assist the GRN by reviewing fiscal and labour policies that would enable both strengthening and resilience in the agricultural sector. Possible interventions include: - Revise current fiscal treatment of small and large farmers and cooperatives - Enhance the green scheme programme - List an Agricultural Bond				
	Assist the GRN in developing a national resilience strategy action plan				
	Assist and advise the GRN to systematically analyse and assess the quality of gender-responsive efforts in COVID-19 crisis recovery policies				
UN Joint Programme on Integrated National Financing Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify alternative forms of development financing - Conduct additional assessments to develop an SDG financing strategy - Establish a national public-private sector dialogue platform (National Financing Dashboard) to garner the involvement of the private sector - Digital finance assessment and ecosystem - SDG investor mapping - SDG investment facility 	N°17: Partnerships for the Goals	500,000 (1,000,000 until 2022)	500,000 (UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA & ILO)	0

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	RELEVANT SDGs	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE FUNDING (US\$)/ AGENCY	FUNDING GAP (US\$)
PILLAR 4: MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION (CONTINUED)			1,260,000	1,030,000	230,000
Leverage opportunities of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)	<p>Identify and support initiatives from the Namibian population, including women and youth, to enable society to take full advantage of opportunities presented by the AfCFTA</p> <p>Support the acceleration of the GRN delivering its schedule of tariff concessions to the AfCFTA implementors</p>	N°8: Decent Work and Economic Growth N°9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure N°17: Partnerships for the Goals	100,000	0	100,000
Support the development of the 6 th National Development Plan	Assist the GRN in developing the NDP 6 with coordination support, technical assistance and information provision to facilitate evidence-based policymaking that will complement findings from the NSA and BoN, and inputs from other national and sub-national agencies as well as development partners	N°1: No poverty N°2: Zero Hunger N°8: Decent Work and Economic Growth N°9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure N°13: Climate Action	60,000	30,000 (FAO)	30,000

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	RELEVANT SDGs	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE FUNDING (US\$)/ AGENCY	FUNDING GAP (US\$)
PILLAR 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE			900,000	520,000	380,000
Support the representation of vulnerable people during recovery from COVID-19 to strengthen social cohesion and build resilience	Conduct a rapid national assessment to understand the impact of the pandemic on the status of various vulnerable groups	N°3: Good Health and Well-being N°5: Gender Equality	30,000	20,000 (UNFPA) 10,000 (FAO)	0
	Finalize regional risk communication and community engagement plans to assist national civil society organizations in disaster preparedness and response	N°16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	70,000	20,000 (UNFPA)	50,000
	Collaborate and forge partnerships with international organizations (e.g. UN Women, UNESCO and the EIGE)	N°17: Partnerships for the Goals	50,000	0	50,000
Create or strengthen spaces of social dialogue for increased community resilience	Strengthen the capacity and outreach of community workers and diversify either their skills or increase the number of staff with different types of expertise Train GBV representatives and counsellors in communities who can facilitate community dialogues Enhance skills and offer materials that can be used as guidance to facilitate dialogue through community policing Conduct community-led monitoring to reinforce resilience of PLHIV and key population communities in the context of COVID-19 Advocate the revision of the Public and Environmental Health Act to reduce the social stigma against people living with HIV and AIDS De-urbanize CSOs to be more vocal and practical in rural areas	N°16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions N°17: Partnerships for the Goals	620,000	420,000 (UN AIDS)	200,000
	Support and facilitate intergenerational dialogues between the older generation and youth to break the gap in knowledge of indigenous and cultural practices		30,000	0	30,000

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	RELEVANT SDGs	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE FUNDING (US\$)/ AGENCY	FUNDING GAP (US\$)
PILLAR 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE (CONTINUED)			900,000	520,000	380,000
Increase protection to community-managed conservancies and preserve the wildlife economy	Continue the support to the Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility by providing technical and financial assistance to tackle poaching and destruction of natural habitats of animals Promote sustainable and legal exploitation of resilient animal populations by indigenous rural populations, while increasing/diversifying the protein supply for the benefit of rural and urban populations	N°2: Zero Hunger N°15: Life on Land N°17: Partnerships for the Goals	100,000	50,000 (FAO)	50,000

ANNEX 2 | MONITORING INDICATORS AND LEAD AGENCIES FOR THE SERP KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	MONITORING INDICATOR(S)	LEAD (AGENCIES) ¹³
PILLAR 1: HEALTH FIRST		
1.A. REVIEW AND STRENGTHEN EFFICIENCY OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM AND DELIVERY OF EMERGENCY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES		
Strengthen the health systems' supply chain, including the forecasting, quantification and distribution for procurement of essential medicines, pharmaceuticals, supplies, medical equipment, including personal protective equipment, and use of pooled procurement mechanisms	a) Provision of PPE and RCCE material b) Establish community-based health delivery points	UNICEF
Empower healthcare workers (including CHWs) with knowledge and skills on IPC, triage, referral, case management, surveillance and response, including data reporting, risk communication and community engagement to strengthen the emergency response at facility, community and household levels	a) Number of community health workers receiving UN support to maintain essential services since COVID-19 disruptions, disaggregated by type of support b) Connect CHWs to GBV prevention and response information and services c) Protect health services and systems with multisectoral mental health support	UNICEF (a, b) WHO (b)
Support the review of One Health regulatory requirements and legal basis of all potential health measures to plan well in advance for any future pandemics or epidemics (i.e. implementation of national health action plan to improve health security)	Support health services and systems with health sector policies informed by SEIAC-NAM	WHO
Strengthen GRN's governance and coordination mechanisms for emergency response and the continuity of essential health services at national and sub-national levels	Define the set of core essential services maintained during the COVID-19 pandemic	WHO
Protect and strengthen the continued delivery of quality essential health services for: - Persons living with HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases, as well as people living with non-communicable diseases - Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health	Number of people accessing essential (non-COVID-19 related) health services, disaggregated by sex, age group and at-risk populations: a) Vaccination programmes b) Maternal health programmes c) Nutrition programmes	UNICEF (a,c) WHO (a,c) UNFPA (b)

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	MONITORING INDICATOR(S)	LEAD (AGENCIES) ¹³
PILLAR 1: HEALTH FIRST (CONTINUED)		
1.B. EXTEND THE SOLAR FOR HEALTH INITIATIVE TO POWER RURAL HEALTH FACILITIES AND PROTECT VULNERABLE PEOPLE		
Include renewable energy sources to increase provision of social services across the country	Support health services and systems with health sector policies informed by SEIAC-NAM	WHO
1.C. INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAINS AND ACCESS TO GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS		
Strengthen Namibia's Public Pharmaceutical Supply Chains through digitization and infrastructure improvement	Support health services and systems with health sector policies informed by SEIAC-NAM	WHO
Facilitate accesses to pharmaceutical global value chains	Support health services and systems with health sector policies informed by SEIAC-NAM	WHO
1.D. STRENGTHEN INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR BETTER MONITORING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSES AND DELIVERY OF ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES INCLUDING THE USE OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)		
Support the design and implementation of an integrated health management information system and technologies, such as telemedicine, and smarter use of data for surveillance and tracking of pandemics/ epidemics	Support health services and systems with health sector policies informed by SEIAC-NAM	WHO
Strengthen Government's capacity to mine, analyse and utilize primary health data to monitor and respond timeously to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on essential MNCAH and nutrition services and strengthen data utilization for decision-making beyond COVID-19	- Rapid training to provide essential MNCAH services - Provision of MNCAH supplies and MNCAH communication material	UNICEF
1.E. PROVIDE STRATEGIC SUPPORT IN ATTRACTING AND RETAINING SKILLED HEALTH WORKERS		
Support implementation of the Human Resources for Health (HRH) Strategic Plan 2020-2030	Support health and community-based workers with: - Remuneration - Ensuring supportive mechanisms	UNICEF
Retrain and offer monthly grants to community health workers	Support health and community-based workers with: - Remuneration - Ensuring supportive mechanisms	UNICEF

¹³ The agency (or agencies) listed in this column indicate that (or those) responsible for providing updates on the monitoring indicators listed in the fourth column, and do not necessarily indicate the lead agency (or agencies) for the related Key Strategic Interventions.

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	MONITORING INDICATOR(S)	LEAD (AGENCIES) ¹³
PILLAR 2: PROTECTING PEOPLE		
Pursue the strengthening of WASH for vulnerable households and children to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic	Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services, disaggregated by sex, age group and at-risk population Number of beneficiaries of water and sanitation services, disaggregated by territory (rural/urban), sex, age group and at-risk population	UNICEF UNDP
Scale up social protection to the most vulnerable segments of the population through a Cash Based Transfer	Number of beneficiaries of social protection schemes and services related to the COVID-19 pandemic disaggregated by territory (rural/urban), sex, age group and at-risk population: - Financial aid packages - Cash for productivity/ transfer programmes	UNDP
Implement Malnutrition Treatment Programmes in the most affected and vulnerable regions (Komas, Omusati, Oshana-Namibe and Oshana-Namibe)	Number of beneficiaries of social protection schemes and services related to the COVID-19 pandemic disaggregated by territory (rural/urban), sex, age group and at-risk population: - Food and nutrition schemes	FAO WFP UNICEF IFAD
Increase the accessibility and quality of current education infrastructure to address weaknesses unearthed by the COVID-19 pandemic	Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning, disaggregated by sex Number of primary school children receiving meals or alternatives to meals, such as take-home rations, disaggregated by sex and transfer modalities	UNESCO (a) UNICEF (a, b) WFP (b)
Accelerate efforts in reducing all forms of domestic and Gender-Based Violence	Number of countries with measures in place to address GBV during the COVID-19 pandemic, which: - Integrate violence prevention and response into COVID-19 response plans - Raise awareness through advocacy and campaigns, with targeted messages to both women and men - Provide options for women to report abuse and seek help without alerting perpetrators - Ensure continued functioning of shelters for victims of violence and expand their capacity - Ensure women's access to justice through police and justice response to address impunity of perpetrators and protect women and children Number of beneficiaries of social protection schemes and services related to the COVID-19 pandemic, disaggregated by territory (rural/urban), sex, age group and at-risk population: - Legal aid services - Human rights protection services - Psychosocial support services	UN-Women (a) UNDP (a, b1, b2) OHCHR (b2) WHO (b3) UNFPA (b3)

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	MONITORING INDICATOR(S)	LEAD (AGENCIES) ¹³
PILLAR 3: ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY		
Develop a tourism sector rebuilding strategy and provide support for its recovery	Number of private sector companies and formal and informal sector workers supported during and after the COVID-19 pandemic: - MSMEs - Private sector companies, excluding MSMEs	UNDP UNESCO
Support the vulnerable informal sector based on comprehensive assessments, facilitating physical visibility and enhancing online market platforms	Reinforce UN supported employment policies and a regulatory environment conducive to economic recovery and decent work, especially in high-risk COVID-19 sectors for: - Youth (15-29) - Own account and family workers (as a proxy for informal workers) - Migrant workers - Workers with disabilities Number of private sector companies and formal and informal sector workers supported during and after the COVID-19 pandemic: - Informal sector workers	ILO (a) UNDP (b)
Increase domestic production (and value addition) of clinical supplies through a partnership with the Japanese Government	Reinforce UN supported employment policies and a regulatory environment conducive to economic recovery and decent work, especially in high-risk COVID-19 sectors	ILO (a)
Scale up the implementation of the SDG Impact Facility to increase MSME participation in key economic areas	Reinforce UN supported employment policies and a regulatory environment conducive to economic recovery and decent work, especially in high-risk COVID-19 sectors for: - Women - Youth (15-29) Number of private sector companies and formal and informal sector workers supported during and after the COVID-19 pandemic: - Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)	ILO (a) UNDP (b, c1) UN-Women (c2)
Promote and ensure the incorporation of the challenges of Namibian MSMEs into the Namibian EMPRETEC Programme	Adoption of fiscal, monetary and legislative stimulus packages for COVID-19 economic response and recovery, that are: - Climate and environmentally sensitive - Gender responsive	

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	MONITORING INDICATOR(S)	LEAD (AGENCIES) ¹³
PILLAR 3: ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY (CONTINUED)		
Advocate for policies that facilitate private sector recovery, particularly MSMEs	Number of private sector companies and formal and informal sector workers supported during and after the COVID-19 pandemic: - MSMEs - Private sector companies, excluding MSMEs - Formal sector workers Adoption of fiscal, monetary and legislative stimulus packages for COVID-19 economic response and recovery, that are climate and environmentally sensitive	UNDP
Strengthen Namibian food systems to recover from emergencies and disease-related shocks through the Build Back Better (BBB) programme	Reinforce UN supported employment policies and a regulatory environment conducive to economic recovery and decent work, especially in high-risk COVID-19 sectors for: - Women - Youth (15-29) Number of private sector companies and formal and informal sector workers supported during and after the COVID-19 pandemic: - Informal sector workers	ILO (a) UNDP (b)
Provision of production subsidies for agricultural inputs and production of fodder	Number of direct beneficiaries of food supply protection regimes that are designed to: - Protect livelihoods by addressing food supply bottlenecks - Improve protective measures for food supply workers	WFP FAO IFAD UNICEF
PILLAR 4: MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION		
Advocate for governmental policies that are informed by SEIAC-NAM key findings and that protect the most at-risk populations	Socio-economic impact assessment in response to the COVID-19 crisis, with a focus on at-risk populations: - Macro-meso economic needs assessment - Labour-market impact assessment - Multi-sectoral and sectoral needs assessment - Fiscal and public debt assessment - Human impact needs assessment for at risk populations - Gender sensitive impact assessments Implement policies informed by the socio-economic impact assessment focused on at-risk populations: - Socio-economic policy including employment - Labour market policies including food security assessment - Fiscal policy - Social protection policy - Women's empowerment policy	UNDP (a1, a3-a6, b1, b3, b4) ILO (a2, b2, b4) FAO (a3, b2) UN-Women (a6, b5) UNICEF (b4)

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	MONITORING INDICATOR(S)	LEAD (AGENCIES) ¹³
PILLAR 4: MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION (CONTINUED)		
UN Joint Programme on Integrated National Financing Framework	Implemented policies informed by the socio-economic impact assessment focused on at-risk populations: - Fiscal policy	UNDP UNICEF ILO UNFPA
Leverage opportunities of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)	Implemented policies informed by the socio-economic impact assessment focused on at-risk populations: - Socio-economic policy including employment - Women's empowerment policy	UNDP (1) UN Women (2)
Support the development of the 6 th National Development Plan	Implemented policies informed by the socio-economic impact assessment focused on at-risk populations: - Socio-economic policy including employment - Labour market policies including food security assessment - Fiscal policy - Social protection policy - Women's empowerment policy	UNDP (1, 3, 4, 5) FAO (2) ILO (2, 4) UNICEF (4) UN-Women (5)
PILLAR 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE		
Support vulnerable populations' representation during recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen social cohesion and build resilience	Number of community-based organizations capacitated to respond to and mitigate the pandemic, fight against COVID-19 related domestic violence, racism, xenophobia, stigma, and other forms of discrimination, prevent and remedy human rights abuses, and ensure longer-term recovery disaggregated by type of community: - Women's organizations - Youth organizations - Federations of slum dwellers - National human rights institutions (NHRIs) - Religious community organizations - Indigenous communities - Community-based organizations in fragile and conflict-affected countries - Community organizations representing other at-risk populations - Community-based organizations providing livelihood support and basic service delivery	UN Women (1) UNFPA (2) UNICEF (2) HABITAT (3) UNDP (4-9) OHCHR (4, 8)

KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS	MONITORING INDICATOR(S)	LEAD (AGENCIES) ¹³
PILLAR 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE (CONTINUED)		
Create or strengthen spaces of social dialogue for increased community resilience	Number of social dialogues, advocacy and political engagement spaces facilitated with participation of at-risk populations and groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social dialogue spaces at national level - Social dialogue spaces at sub-national level - Advocacy and political engagement spaces at national level - Advocacy and political engagement spaces at sub-national level 	ILO (1, 2) UNDP (3, 4)
Increase protection to community-managed conservancies and preserve the wildlife economy	Number of community-based organizations capacitated to respond to and mitigate the pandemic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community organizations representing other at-risk populations - Community-based organizations providing livelihood support and basic services delivery 	OHCHR (1) UNDP (2)



Reduce pressure on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape

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