



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Poverty and Deprivation in Namibia 2015

Although classified as an upper-middle income country, Namibia still faces a plethora of development challenges...

Namibia, with an estimated per capita income of US\$5 693.13, was classified as an upper-middle income country in 2009. This relatively high income status masks extreme poverty, as well as inequalities in income distribution, general standard of living and quality of life. Over the past five years, the Namibian economy registered an average growth rate of 4.3 percent. However, with an unemployment rate of 29.6 percent, poverty incidence of 26.9 percent, and HIV prevalence of 16.9 percent, a large portion of the Namibian population remains vulnerable.

Table 1: Selected economic and social development indicators

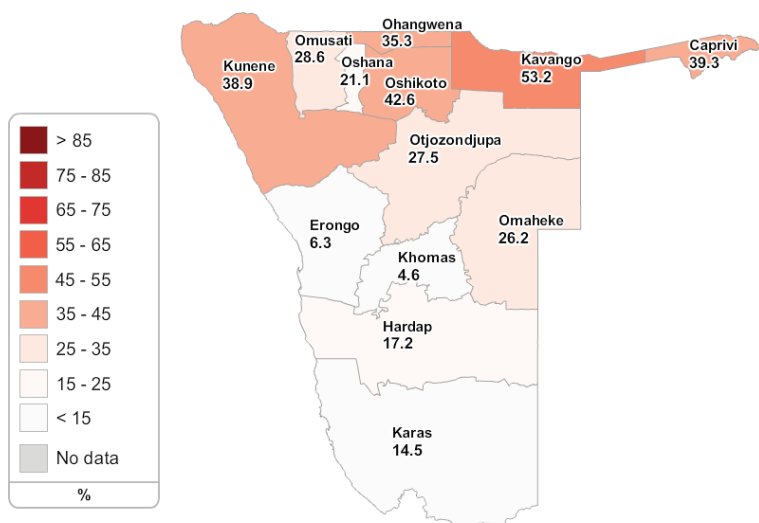
Indicators	Outcome		
	2009	2011	2013
Real GDP growth (%)	0.3%	5.1%	5.1%
Consumer Price Index (%)	9.5%	5.0%	5.4%
GDP per capita US\$	4 140.88	5 597.17	5 693.13
Exchange rate (N\$:US\$)	8.6	7.4	9.7
Manufacturing as % of GDP	13.0%	13.7%	12.1%
Manufactured goods as % of total export	23.7%	22.3%	16.5%
Population (millions)	2 066 398	2 113 077	2 113 077
Unemployment (%)	-	26.8%	29.6%
Urban Population (%)	40.6%	42.6%	43.0%
Adult literacy rate	-	89.0%	89.0%
Life expectancy at birth (years)^	61.0	48.9	56.9
Under five mortality (per 1 000 live births)*	62	69	20
HIV Prevalence (% of pop 15–49, 2014)	18.8%	18.2%	16.9%

^ figures for 1991, 2001 and 2011; * figures for 2000, 2006 and 2013

...with uncharacteristically high incidence of poverty, especially in rural areas...

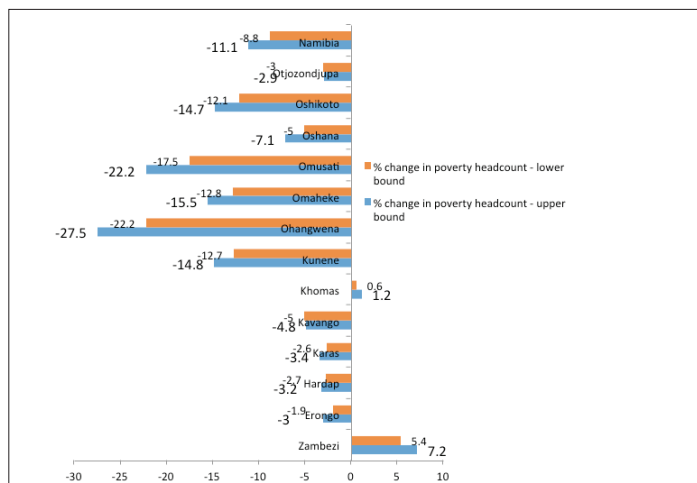
The largely rural northern regions of Kavango, Oshikoto, Zambezi, Kunene and Ohangwena remain the poorest in the country with more than one third of the population in these regions being poor. In Kavango, more than half of the population is classified as poor. Only in the mainly urbanised Khomas and Erongo regions is poverty recorded in single digits.

Map 1. Regions of Namibia – Headcount poverty rate, 2011 (upper-bound poverty line)



...While there has been a general decline in the incidence of poverty, regions which had low poverty incidence in the base year (2001) have performed poorly with regard to poverty reduction over the past decade...

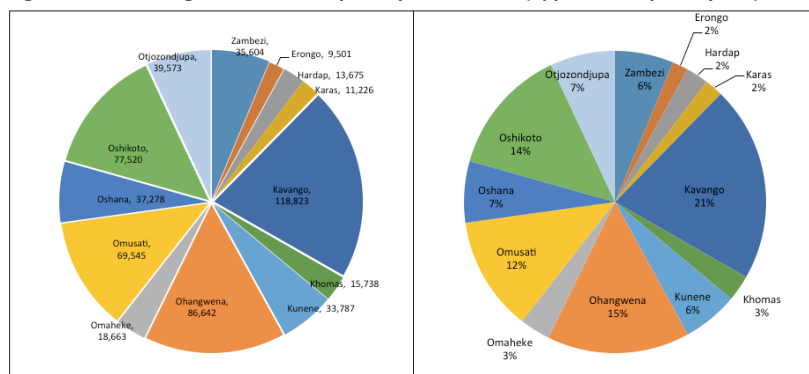
Figure 1: Regions of Namibia – Change in poverty headcounts, 2001 to 2011



...with three regions (Kavango, Ohangwena and Oshikoto), which are largely rural and characterised mainly by subsistence farming, still accounting for half of the total number of poor people...

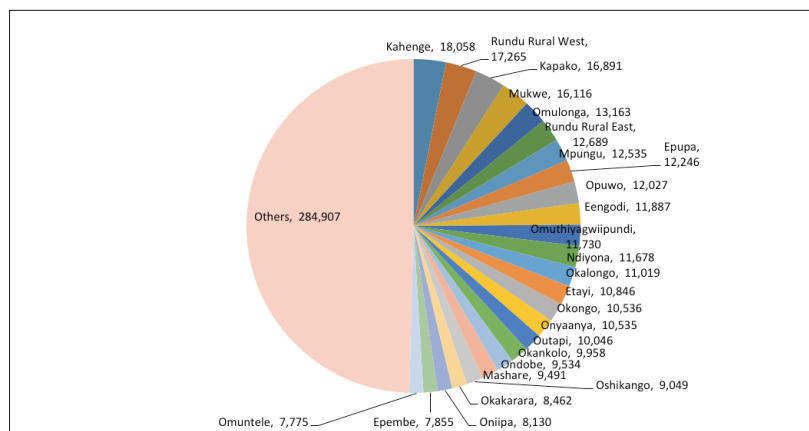
Of the estimated 568 418 poor people in Namibia, 21 percent are found in Kavango region while Ohangwena and Oshikoto account for 15 percent and 14 percent of the poor, respectively. Subsistence farming employs 58.3 percent in Kavango, and 53.3 percent and 44.3 percent in Ohangwena and Oshikoto, respectively.

Figure 2: Namibia regional headcount poverty shares, 2011 (upper-bound poverty line)



...and less than one quarter (25 out of 107) of the constituencies, most of them from the three regions with the highest numbers of poor people, accounting for half of the total poor...

Figure 3: Namibia constituency headcount poverty shares, 2011 (upper-bound poverty line)

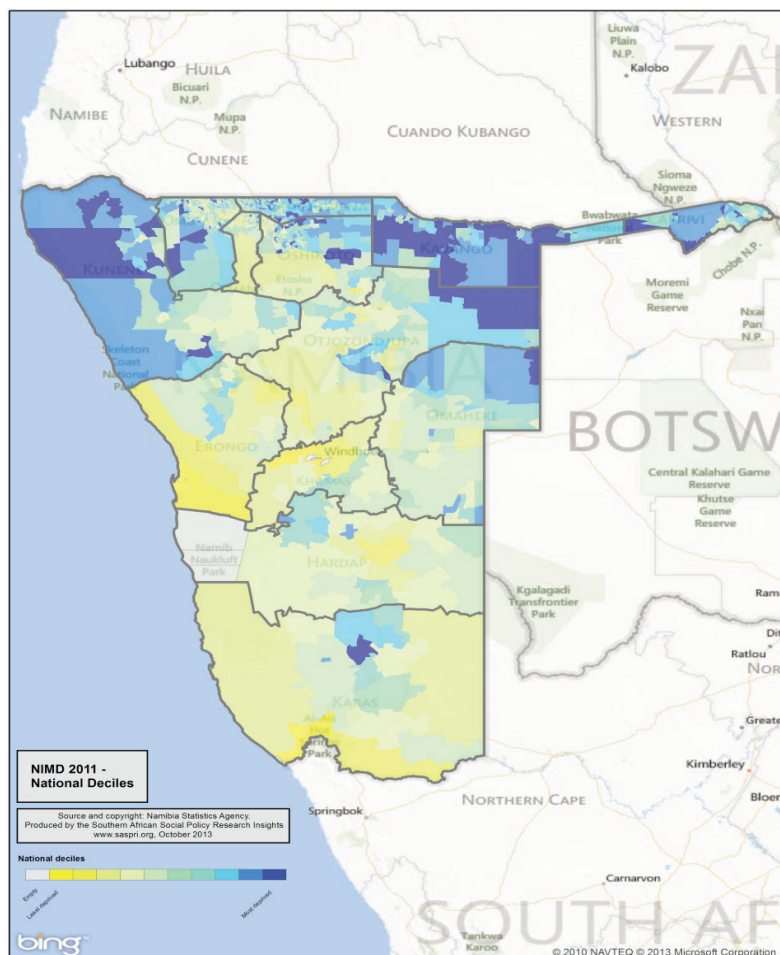


...Similar patterns have been observed with respect to deprivation in multiple domains...

While poverty and deprivation are related concepts, they differ in that the condition of poverty means not having enough financial resources to meet a need, whereas deprivation refers to an unmet need, which is caused by a lack of resources of all kinds, not just financial ones. The map below shows pockets of multiple deprivation (in the material, education, employment, health and living environment domains) where the darker the colour the higher the index of multiple deprivation. Pockets of deprivations are mostly in rural areas.

Namibia index of multiple deprivation, 2011, at datazone level

Map 2: Namibia index of Multiple Deprivation 2011 at Datazone Level



Kavango region, with the highest poverty headcount of 53.2 percent, has 64 percent of its population materially deprived while 50 percent are employment deprived. In terms of education, 73 percent are deprived while 90 percent are living environment deprived. Ohangwena region which reduced poverty by about 28 percentage points over the 2001 to 2011 period, reduced material deprivation by 32 percentage points and living environment deprivation by only three percentage points over the past decade.

Table 2: Regional values of individual domains of deprivation and changes (2001-2011)

Region	Material		Employment		Education		Living environment		Change over 2001- 2011 period (percentage points)			
	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	Materials	Employment	Education	Living environment
Zambezi	53.3	73.5	38.3	17.5	64.1	63.2	89.2	90.2	-20.2	20.8	0.9	-0.9
Erongo	33.0	27.4	30.3	34.2	59.3	63.0	53.0	56.2	5.6	-3.8	-3.7	-3.2
Hardap	34.1	42.9	35.6	33.9	70.8	69.4	62.9	65.5	-8.8	1.7	1.4	-2.6
Karas	33.0	37.2	33.2	28.6	66.5	67.8	59.5	65.3	-4.2	4.6	-1.3	-5.8
Kavango	64.4	75.1	50.8	20.4	73.3	72.4	90.4	95.5	-10.7	30.4	0.9	-5.1
Khomas	30.5	38.0	30.4	29.4	48.8	51.4	52.7	52.1	-7.5	1.0	-2.7	0.7
Kunene	63.4	79.4	36.2	23.5	81.6	75.2	84.4	87.8	-16.0	12.7	6.3	-3.4
Ohangwena	54.3	86.0	43.7	37.3	69.9	65.4	94.2	97.2	-31.8	6.5	4.5	-3.0
Omaheke	49.2	62.8	39.8	24.0	78.4	71.6	83.0	86.3	-13.6	15.7	6.8	-3.2
Omusati	58.5	83.2	42.7	36.5	63.0	63.1	92.0	95.1	-24.6	6.2	-0.1	-3.1
Oshana	53.3	57.5	38.7	40.8	54.6	58.4	73.0	81.4	-4.2	-2.2	-3.8	-8.4
Oshikoto	52.9	83.4	40.6	45.2	67.6	65.8	85.8	88.8	-30.5	-4.7	1.8	-2.9
Otjozondjupa	41.7	57.0	38.3	31.7	73.0	68.2	69.2	74.2	-15.3	6.5	4.8	-5.0
Namibia	48.1	64.7	37.5	31.4	63.5	63.5	76.4	81.1	-16.6	6.1	-0.1	-4.7

...with half of the 20 poorest constituencies also being among the 20 most deprived constituencies...

The poorest constituency is Epupa in Kunene region, while Kapako in Kavango region, the fourth poorest constituency is rated the most deprived constituency. In terms of absolute numbers, Kahenge constituency in Kavango region has the largest share of the poor, with more than 18 000 of its population being poor compared to Windhoek East where the number of poor people is estimated to be less than 25.

Table 3: Namibia's twenty poorest constituencies

Constituency	Region	2001	2011	Change	Poverty rank	NIMD rank
Epupa	Kunene	76.8	69.2	-7.6	1	13
Tsumkwe	Otjozondjupa	65.7	64.6	-1.1	2	2
Okankolo	Oshikoto	71.7	62.9	-8.8	3	21
Kapako	Kavango	55.8	62.6	6.8	4	1
Kahenge	Kavango	60.3	60.6	0.3	5	5
Mashare	Kavango	75.3	60.5	-14.8	6	3
Mpungu	Kavango	60.8	60.3	-0.5	7	16
Mukwe	Kavango	65.2	58.2	-7.0	8	10
Kongola	Zambezi	47.4	58.1	10.7	9	4
Ndiyona	Kavango	69.3	56.6	-12.7	10	6
Rundu Rural East	Kavango	61.5	56.3	-5.2	11	11
Sibbinda	Zambezi	45.8	55.0	9.2	12	14
Eengodi	Oshikoto	69.1	54.7	-14.4	13	22
Omundaungilo	Ohangwena	76.1	51.8	-24.3	14	7
Onyaanya^	Oshikoto	62.2	50.4	-11.8	15	40
Linyanti	Zambezi	41.2	49.4	8.2	16	9
Kabbe	Zambezi	42.2	49.1	6.9	17	37
Epembe	Ohangwena	72.2	48.4	-23.8	18	15
Omuntele	Oshikoto	66.9	46.1	-20.8	19	46
Rundu Rural West	Kavango	46.8	45.1	-1.7	20	26

In fifteen of the country's twenty poorest constituencies, more than half of the population is poor (highlighted in green in Table 3). These fifteen poorest constituencies are all largely rural with subsistence farming as the main economic activity. In Epupa constituency, more than two thirds of the population is poor.

...and more than half of the population being poor in 15 constituencies, all of them rural...

It is notable that Okankolo, which is the third poorest constituency, the second living environmentally deprived and thirteenth materially deprived, does not feature among the twenty most deprived constituencies in terms of the overall index of multiple deprivation (see Table 4, overleaf).

Table 4: Namibia's twenty most deprived constituencies in terms of overall NIMD

Constituency	Region	NIMD rank 2011	Poverty rank 2011
Kapako	Kavango	1	4
Tsumkwe	Otjozondjupa	2	2
Mashare	Kavango	3	6
Kongola	Zambezi	4	9
Kahenge	Kavango	5	5
Ndiyona	Kavango	6	10
Omundaungilo	Ohangwena	7	14
Onesi	Omusati	8	33
Linyanti	Zambezi	9	16
Mukwe	Kavango	10	8
Rundu Rural East	Kavango	11	11
Sesfontein	Kunene	12	26
Epupa	Kunene	13	1
Sibbinda	Zambezi	14	12
Epembe	Ohangwena	15	18
Mpungu	Kavango	16	7
Otjinene	Omaheke	17	34
Omulonga	Ohangwena	18	25
Katima Mulilo Rural	Zambezi	19	23
Ondobe	Ohangwena	20	27

...and, in most cases, these are the same constituencies that are mostly materially deprived...

Material possessions, especially access to television and/or radio, and access to a fixed and/or mobile telephone represent important modes of communication and are indicative of an individual's socioeconomic well-being.

Table 5: Namibia's twenty most deprived constituencies – Material deprivation (2001-2011)

Constituency	Region	Rank	2001	Rank	2011	Change
Epupa	Kunene	15	91.3	1	89.4	-1.9
Tsumkwe	Otjozondjupa	8	95.3	2	81.2	-14.2
Onesi	Omusati	28	86.4	3	76.5	-9.9
Kongola	Zambezi	10	93.4	4	76.3	-17.1
Kahenge	Kavango	52	72.3	5	73.3	1.0
Sesfontein	Kunene	6	96.7	6	73.2	-23.5
Mpungu	Kavango	55	69.9	7	73.0	3.0
Omundaungilo	Ohangwena	2	98.6	8	72.8	-25.8
Kapako	Kavango	59	64.8	9	72.8	8.0
Eengondi	Oshikoto	5	98.3	10	71.9	-26.4
Epembe	Ohangwena	1	98.9	11	70.8	-28.1
Mashare	Kavango	12	93.0	12	70.7	-22.3
Okankolo	Oshikoto	3	98.3	13	70.5	-27.9
Uukwiyu	Oshana	64	62.0	14	70.4	8.4
Mukwe	Kavango	27	86.4	15	69.8	-16.6
Sibbinda	Zambezi	11	93.3	16	69.5	-23.7
Otjombinde	Omaheke	40	79.6	17	68.9	-10.6
Linyanti	Zambezi	16	90.8	18	68.2	-22.6
Opuwo	Kunene	20	89.7	19	65.8	-23.9
Okaku	Oshana	49	74.7	20	65.5	-9.2

...In proportionate terms, using the upper-bound poverty line, more than one third of the population is poor in one third of the constituencies...

In about one third of all the constituencies, more than one third of the population is poor. While poverty declined in a number of those constituencies with high levels of poverty (more than one third of the population), in about 37 percent of these constituencies, either there was no significant decline (decline of less than five percentage points) or the poverty headcount increased over the decade 2001 to 2011.

Table 6: Constituencies in which more than one third of the population is poor (upper-bound poverty line)

Constituency	Region	2001	2011	Change
Epupa	Kunene	76.8	69.2	-7.6
Tsumkwe	Otjozondjupa	65.7	64.6	-1.1
Okankolo	Oshikoto	71.7	62.9	-8.8
Kapako	Kavango	55.8	62.6	6.8
Kahenge	Kavango	60.3	60.6	0.3
Mashare	Kavango	75.3	60.5	-14.8
Mpungu	Kavango	60.8	60.3	-0.5
Mukwe	Kavango	65.2	58.2	-7.0
Kongola	Zambezi	47.4	58.1	10.7
Ndiyona	Kavango	69.3	56.6	-12.7
Rundu Rural East	Kavango	61.5	56.3	-5.2
Sibbinda	Zambezi	45.8	55.0	9.2
Eengodi	Oshikoto	69.1	54.7	-14.4
Omundaungilo	Ohangwena	76.1	51.8	-24.3
Onyaanya	Oshikoto	62.2	50.4	-11.8
Linyanti	Zambezi	41.2	49.4	8.2
Kabbe	Zambezi	42.2	49.1	6.9
Epembe	Ohangwena	72.2	48.4	-23.8
Omuntele	Oshikoto	66.9	46.1	-20.8
Rundu Rural West	Kavango	46.8	45.1	-1.7
Omuthiyagwiipundi	Oshikoto	61.2	44.8	-16.4
Guinas	Oshikoto	54.1	43.9	-10.2
Katima Mulilo Rural	Zambezi	38.3	43.0	4.7
Okongo	Ohangwena	73.7	41.0	-32.7
Omulonga	Ohangwena	63.1	40.4	-22.7
Sesfontein	Kunene	69.0	40.0	-29.0
Ondobe	Ohangwena	51.0	39.8	-11.2
Onayena	Oshikoto	62.1	39.2	-22.9
Okakarara	Otjozondjupa	49.7	37.2	-12.5
Otjombinde	Omaheke	57.0	36.3	-20.7
Okalongo	Omusati	59.0	36.0	-23.0
Uukwiyu	Oshana	36.0	36.0	0.0
Onesi	Omusati	51.0	34.6	-16.4
Otjinene	Omaheke	55.1	33.2	-21.9
Okaku	Oshana	38.2	33.2	-5.0

...and all the 20 most deprived constituencies in terms of living environment fall within the category of those with very high levels of poverty (more than a third of the population being poor), implying the existence of a strong correlation between poverty levels and living environment...

The twenty most living environment deprived constituencies have more than 96 percent of the population deprived in this domain with no notable changes in the domain score over the decade 2001 to 2011.

Table 7: Namibia's twenty most deprived constituencies – Living environment deprivation (2001-2011)

Constituency	Region	Rank	2001	Rank	2011	Change
Epembe	Ohangwena	3	99.8	1	99.8	0.0
Okankolo	Oshikoto	6	99.6	2	99.0	-0.6
Kabbe	Zambezi	9	99.4	3	98.9	-0.5
Linyanti	Zambezi	1	99.9	4	98.7	-1.2
Omundaungilo	Ohangwena	11	99.2	5	98.7	-0.5
Kapako	Kavango	5	99.6	6	98.6	-1.0
Epupa	Kunene	4	99.7	7	98.6	-1.1
Kahenge	Kavango	7	99.4	8	98.4	-1.0
Kongola	Zambezi	16	98.6	9	98.3	-0.2
Sibbinda	Zambezi	2	99.9	10	98.3	-1.6
Eengondi	Oshikoto	14	98.8	11	98.1	-0.7
Katima Mulilo Rural	Zambezi	20	98.2	12	98.0	-0.2
Omulonga	Ohangwena	15	98.8	13	98.0	-0.8
Mashare	Kavango	12	99.2	14	97.9	-1.2
Ondobe	Ohangwena	13	99.0	15	97.9	-1.1
Mukwe	Kavango	17	98.6	16	97.6	-0.9
Otamanzi	Omusati	22	97.6	17	97.5	0.0
Okongo	Ohangwena	8	99.4	18	97.3	-2.1
Ndiyona	Kavango	10	99.2	19	97.2	-2.0
Mpungu	Kavango	18	98.5	20	96.3	-2.2

...This trend is also observed with respect to education deprivation, with more than one third of the population being poor in 60 percent of the 20 most education deprived constituencies...

There exists a negative correlation between poverty and educational attainment with those better educated having higher income and thus being less likely to be poor. In the twenty most education deprived constituencies, more than 78 percent of the population is deprived in the education domain. Epupa is the poorest constituency in Namibia, the most deprived materially and educationally, and the seventh most deprived in terms of living environment. However, Epupa does not appear in the top twenty health and employment deprived constituencies.

Table 8: Namibia's twenty most deprived constituencies – Educational deprivation (2001-2011)

Constituency	Region	Rank	2001	Rank	2011	Change
Epupa	Kunene	1	83.4	1	91.1	7.7
Tsumkwe	Otjozondjupa	4	78.9	2	85.8	6.9
Rehoboth Rural	Hardap	6	77.1	3	85.2	8.1
Steinhausen	Omaheke	3	79.3	4	84.1	4.8
Guinas	Oshikoto	2	80.0	5	83.9	3.9
Sesfontein	Kunene	11	76.1	6	83.5	7.4
Kamanjab	Kunene	20	74.8	7	82.3	7.6
Otavi	Otjozondjupa	13	75.8	8	82.1	6.2
Omatako	Otjozondjupa	27	72.2	9	81.5	9.3
Daures	Erongo	25	72.8	10	81.1	8.3
Otjinene	Omaheke	66	64.6	11	81.0	16.4
Otjombinde	Omaheke	22	73.9	12	80.9	7.0
Opuwo	Kunene	24	73.3	13	80.6	7.2
Eengondi	Oshikoto	10	76.3	14	80.2	4.0
Kapako	Kavango	12	76.0	15	80.2	4.2
Epukiro	Omaheke	62	65.5	16	79.7	14.2
Kahenge	Kavango	7	76.9	17	79.5	2.5
Kalahari	Omaheke	5	78.2	18	79.2	0.9
Ndiyona	Kavango	14	75.7	19	78.9	3.1
Outjo	Kunene	23	73.8	20	78.6	4.8

...as well as health deprivation, whereby more than one third of the population is poor in 70 percent of the 20 most health deprived constituencies...

The existence of high premature mortality in an area, including high levels of infant and under-five mortality, reflects high levels of ill-health. That 70 percent of the 20 most health deprived constituencies having one third of their population being poor, is indicative of the problems that the poor face in gaining access to quality health services.

Table 9: Namibia's twenty most deprived constituencies – Health deprivation (2001-2011)

Constituency	Region	Rank	2001	Rank	2011	Change
Khorixas	Kunene	61	404.9	1	793.1	388.2
Linyanti	Zambezi	49	551.7	2	778.8	227.1
Mukwe	Kavango	42	607.4	3	758.3	151.0
Ohangwena	Ohangwena	7	949.2	4	600.1	-349.0
Ndiyona	Kavango	29	691.8	5	597.3	-94.5
Rundu Urban	Kavango	36	653.6	6	596.8	-56.7
Katima Mulilo Rural	Zambezi	6	982.7	7	592.9	-389.8
Kongola	Zambezi	1	1374.9	8	584.8	-790.1
Kapako	Kavango	22	776.4	9	576.2	-200.2
Okaku	Oshana	3	1006.7	10	574.9	-431.8
Mashare	Kavango	37	634.8	11	568.2	-66.5
Kahenge	Kavango	25	736.7	12	566.4	-170.3
Endola	Ohangwena	10	910.8	13	563.1	-347.7
Mpungu	Kavango	35	654.1	14	555.6	-98.5
Omulonga	Ohangwena	8	922.3	15	540.3	-382.0
Berseba	Karas	80	322.3	16	533.4	211.1
Khorixas	Kunene	61	404.9	1	793.1	388.2
Linyanti	Zambezi	49	551.7	2	778.8	227.1
Mukwe	Kavango	42	607.4	3	758.3	151.0
Ohangwena	Ohangwena	7	949.2	4	600.1	-349.0

...and employment deprivation whereby 60 percent of the 20 constituencies with the highest employment deprivation have more than one third of their population being poor...

Table 10: Namibia's twenty most deprived constituencies - Employment deprivation (2001-2011)

Constituency	Region	Rank	2001	Rank	2011	Change
Rundu Rural East	Kavango	45	33.2	1	70.8	37.6
Onesi	Omusati	47	32.5	2	59.5	27.1
Kapako	Kavango	95	13.5	3	58.0	44.5
Rundu Rural West	Kavango	78	23.5	4	57.3	33.7
Mashare	Kavango	80	23.1	5	55.5	32.4
Omuthiyagwiipundi	Oshikoto	19	43.1	6	54.7	11.6
Rundu Urban	Kavango	63	28.3	7	52.8	24.5
Tsumkwe	Otjozondjupa	84	21.3	8	50.7	29.5
Katima Mulilo Urban	Zambezi	57	30.1	9	50.1	20.0
Otamanzi	Omusati	11	60.5	10	49.6	-10.9
Otjinene	Omaheke	90	17.7	11	49.2	31.6
Oshikango	Ohangwena	18	43.9	12	48.9	5.0
Ohangwena	Ohangwena	28	38.9	13	47.7	8.8
Khorixas	Kunene	17	44.2	14	47.5	3.3
Okalongo	Omusati	91	16.0	15	47.5	31.5
Okatana	Oshana	54	31.0	16	47.4	16.4
Ondobe	Ohangwena	26	39.5	17	47.3	7.9
Sesfontein	Kunene	67	27.3	18	47.0	19.8
Aminuis	Omaheke	70	26.1	19	47.0	20.9
Okakarara	Otjozondjupa	15	48.5	20	47.0	-1.5

...Simply put, poverty and deprivation (in multiple domains) tend to reinforce each other at the local level, with constituencies with high poverty headcounts being also those that are the most deprived.

The constituencies with the highest levels of deprivation are also those in which more than 60 percent of the population is classified as poor. Additionally, they appear among the twenty most deprived constituencies in all five domains of deprivation, namely material, education, health, employment and living environment. Poverty intervention programmes and service delivery programmes should be directed towards the areas that are severely affected in terms of both poverty and deprivation.

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National Planning Commission

Government Office Park

Luther Street

Private Bag 13356

Windhoek

Tel.: +264 61 283 4111

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