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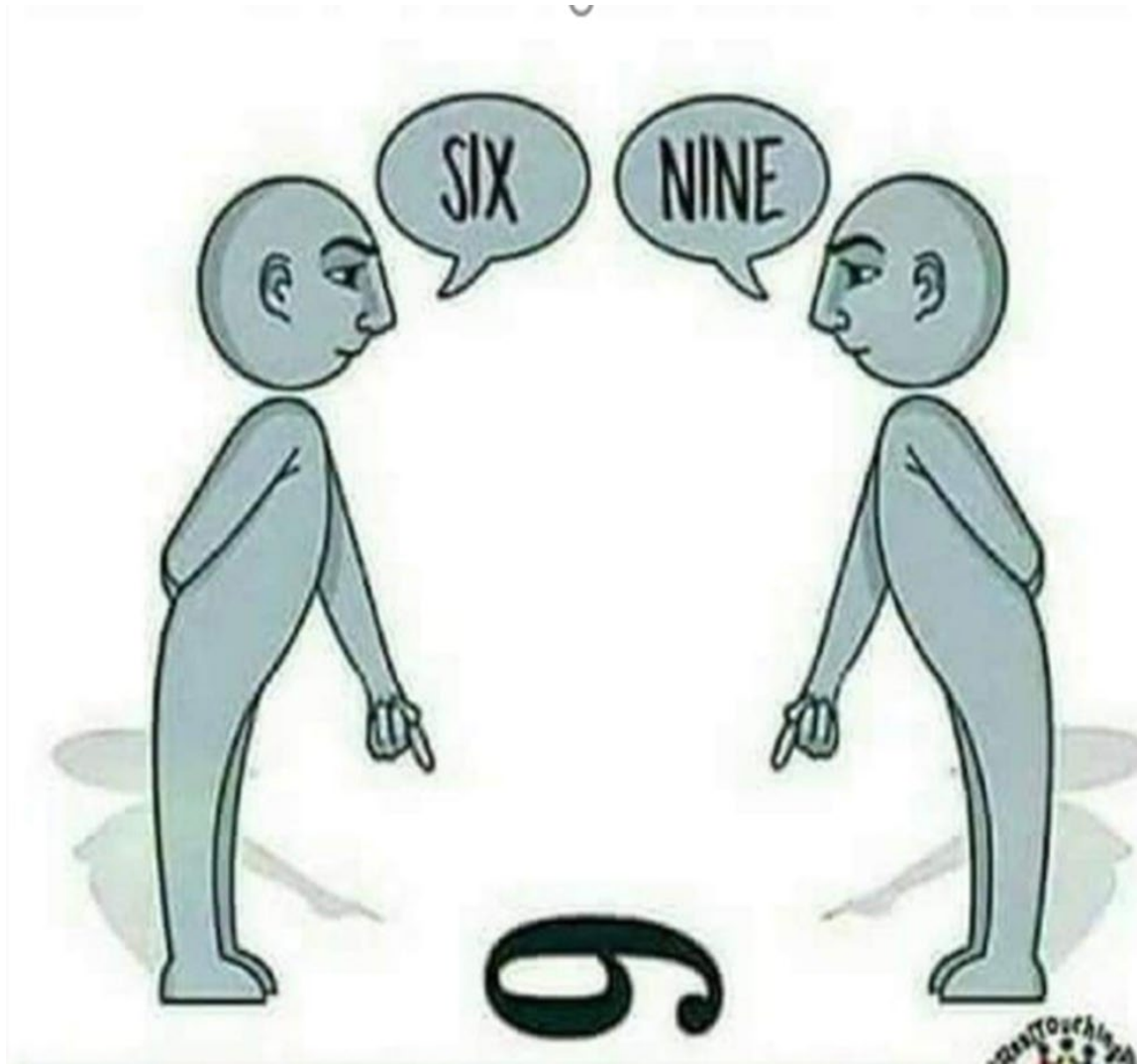
NAMIBIA CASE STUDY: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS & OBSERVATION

Interregional training workshop on strengthening capacity for evidence based social protection policies for responding to the triple global crisis in fuel, food and finance

8 to 10 July 2025, Livingstone, Zambia



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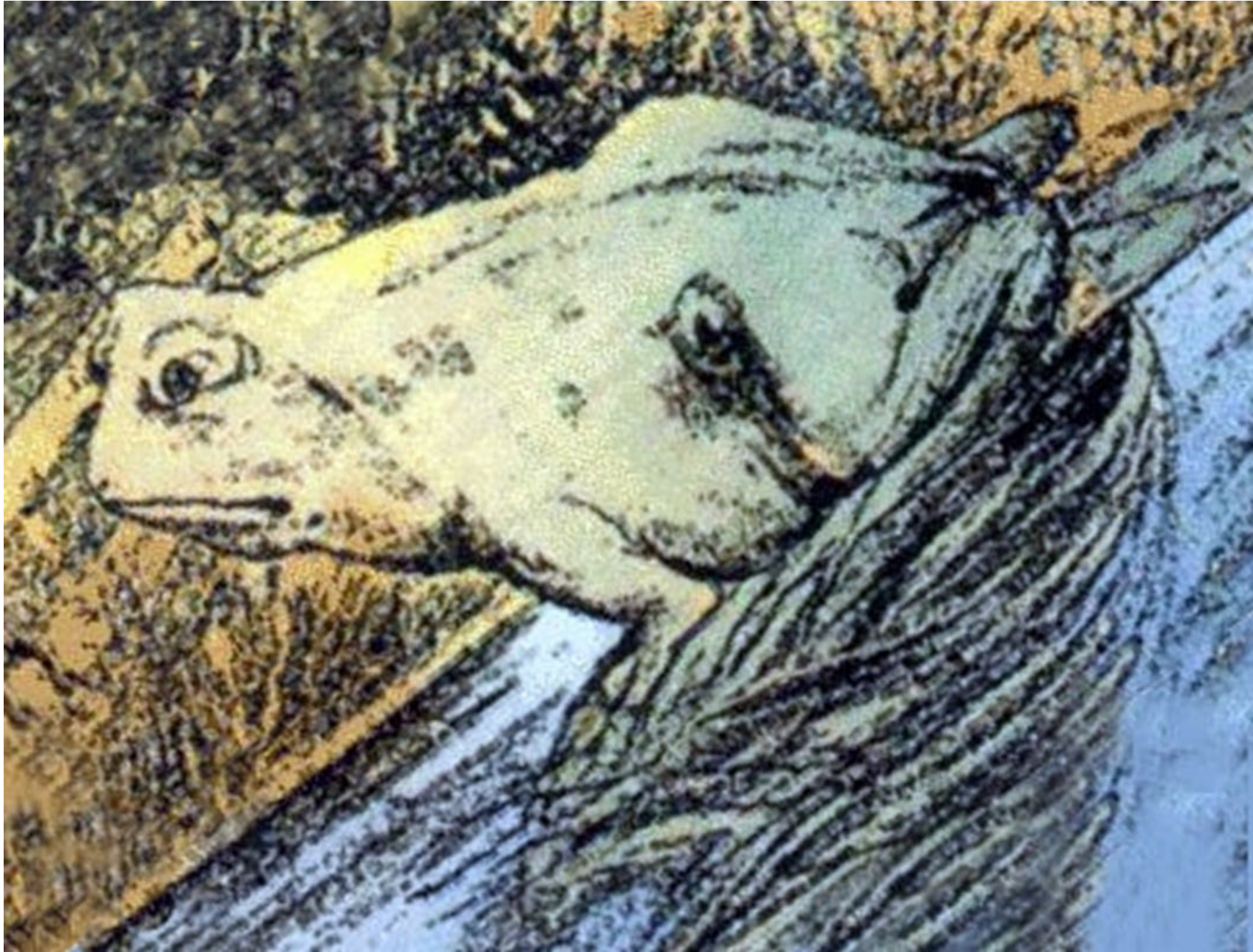
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SITUATION ANALYSIS

The Economy

The national cake is big enough for every Namibian – that is why for the past 10 years Namibia is classified as an upper-middle income country. (Was downgraded on the **1st July 2025** to Lower middle-income status by the World Bank.

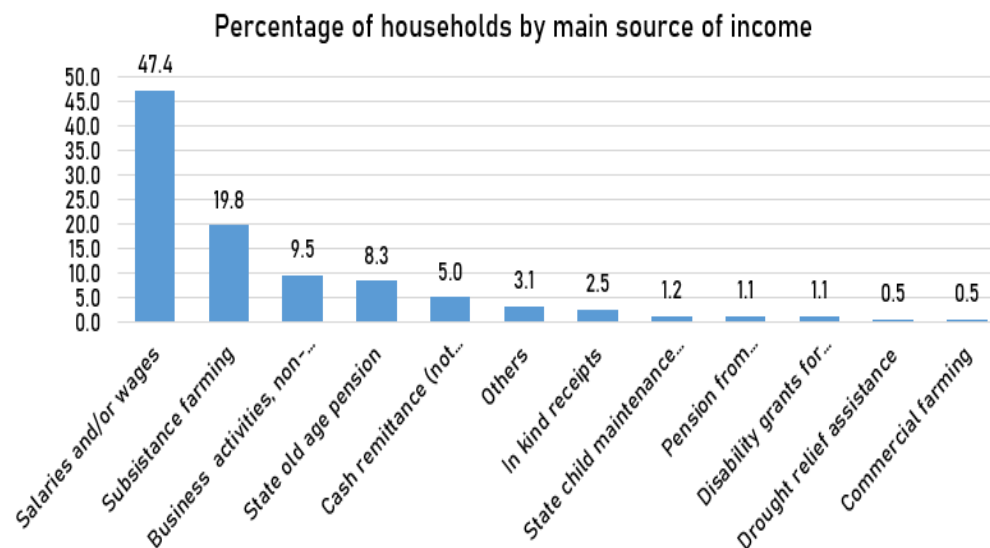


GDP per capita

The overall per capita GDP in a developing country like Namibia is greatly affected by the dualistic nature of the economy.

Source of Income

Overall, 47.4 percent of households in Namibia indicated that Salaries and/or wages are their main source of income. This is followed by Subsistence farming accounting for 19.8 percent of all the households in Namibia.

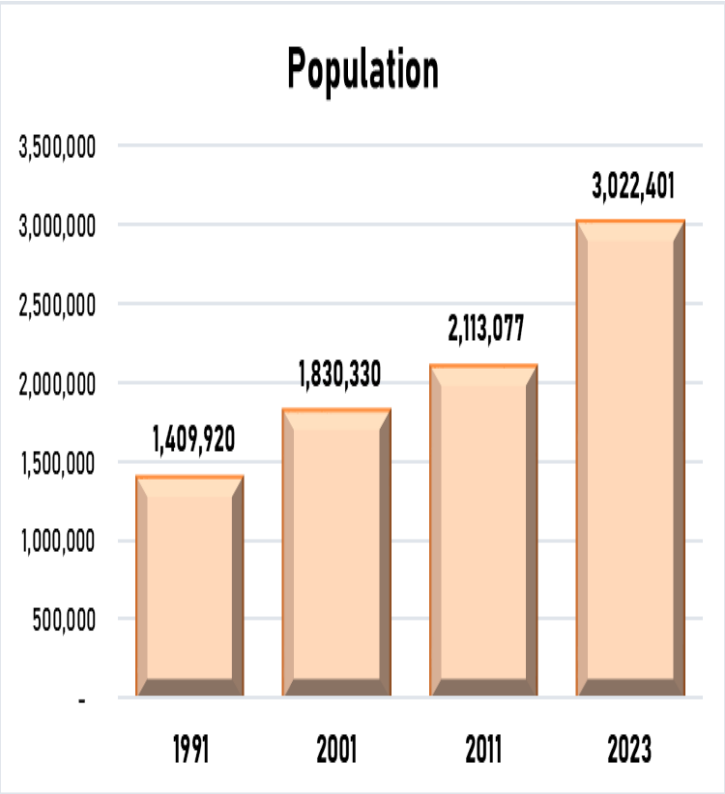


SITUATION ANALYSIS



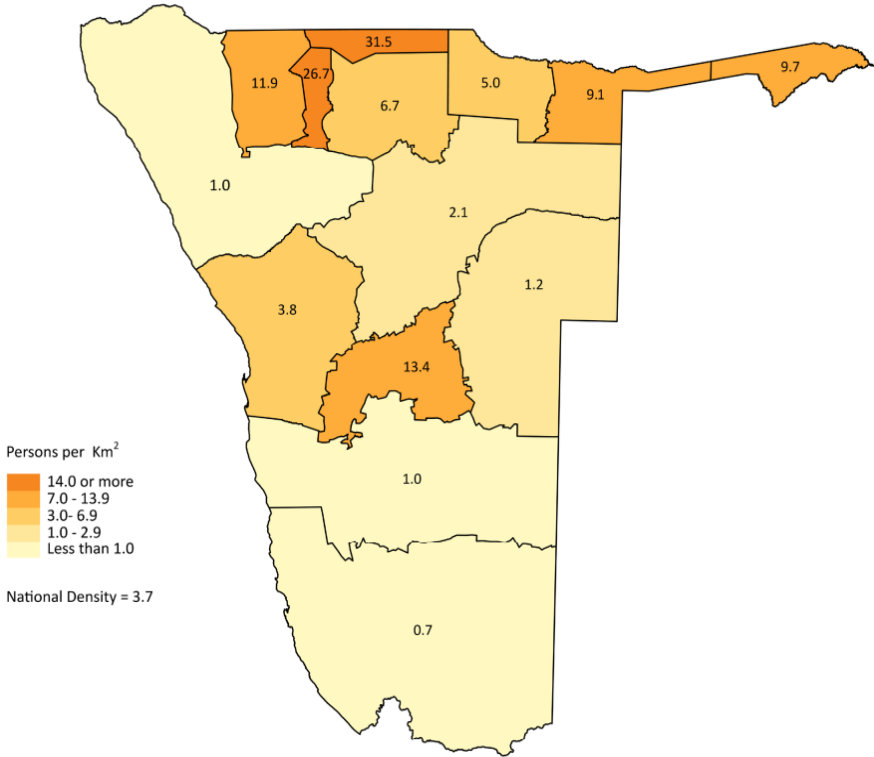
Demographic characteristics

Total population of Namibia stands at 3,022,401. This figure shows that Namibia’s population has been increasing since the 1991 Census, from 1,409,920 to 3,022,401 in 2023, representing an increase of 114.4 percent over a period of 32 years.



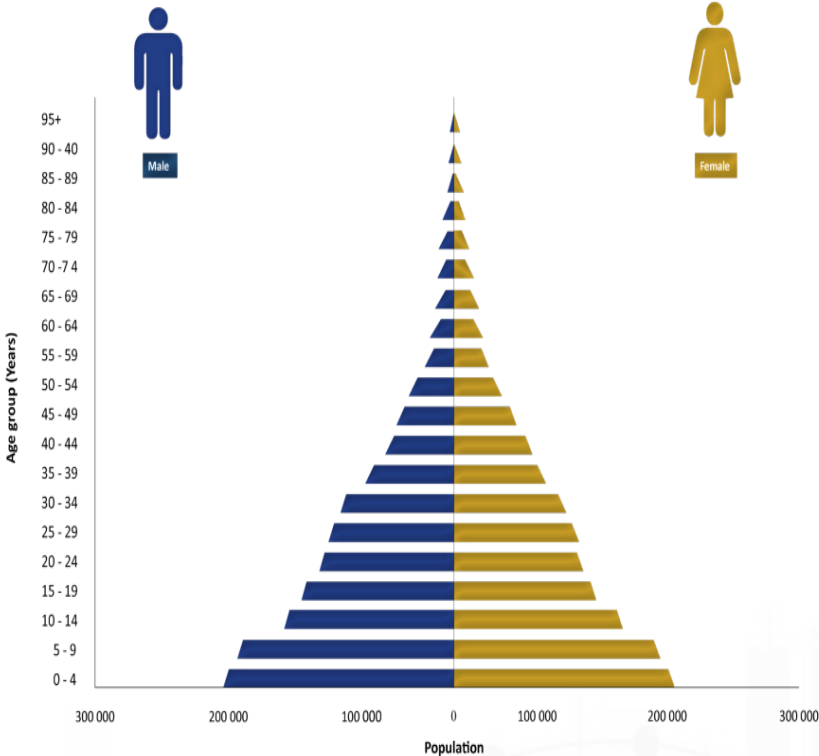
Population Density

The National population density was 3.7 persons per square kilometer



Age distribution

The national population pyramid presented in the figure below shows a very broad base illustrating young people and a very narrow apex representing a small proportion of elderly people who are aged 60 years and older





.....Namibia is a Diverse country.....

Main language

There are many languages spoken in Namibia and many Namibians are multilingual. The most common main language is Oshiwambo, which is the main language for half of the Namibian population

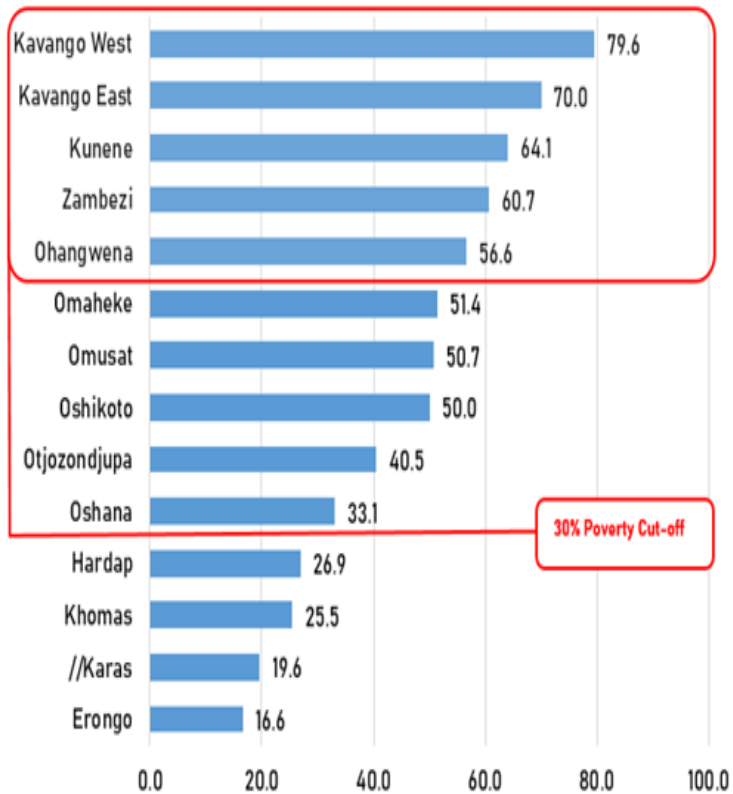


SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

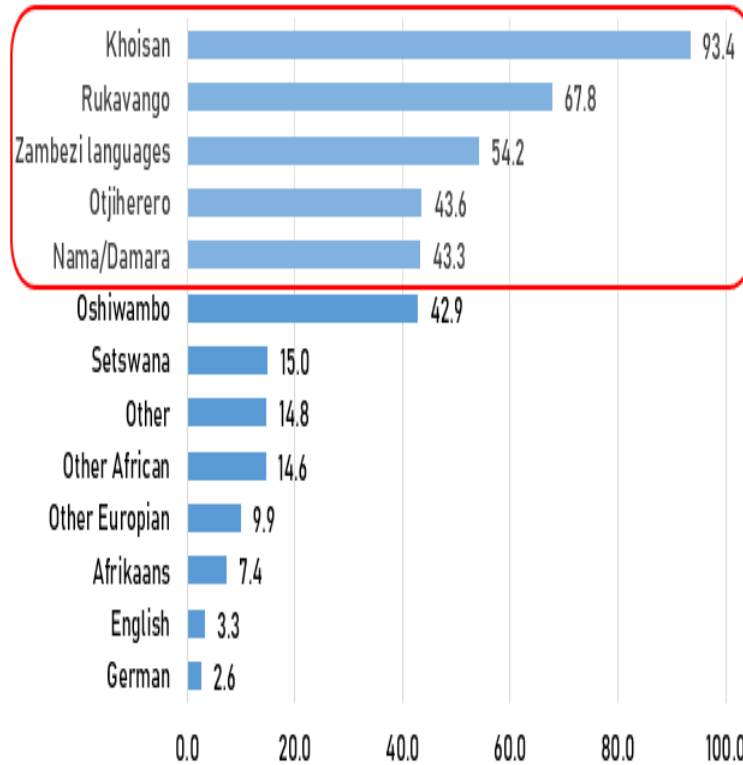
Namibia's number one challenge is Poverty.

Poverty is reported at 43.3 percent, meaning that 43.3 percent of the population of Namibia are multidimensionally poor.

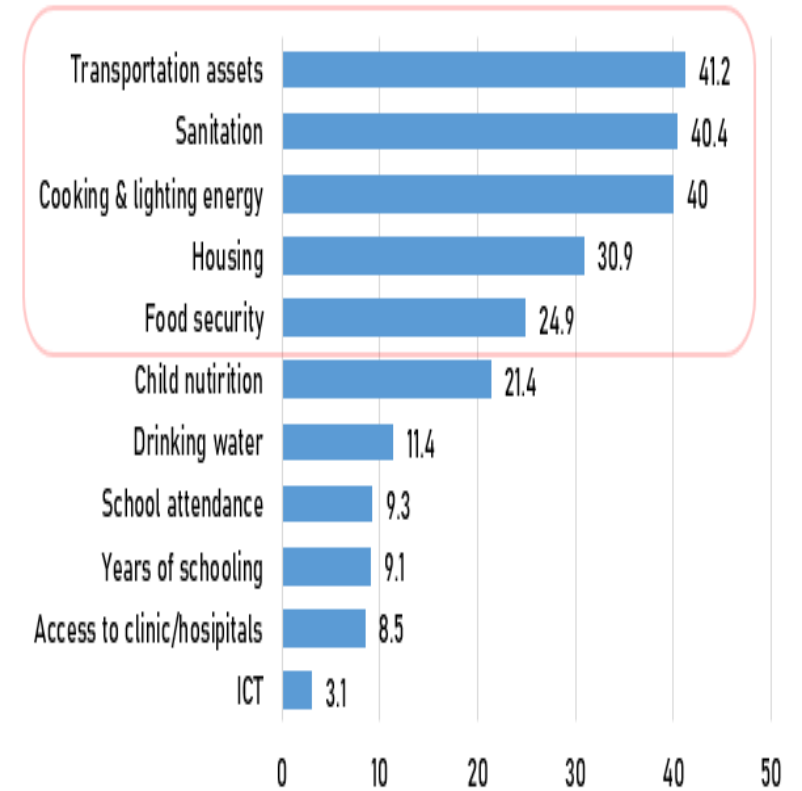
Incidence of Multidimensional Poverty (H)(2021) by Region



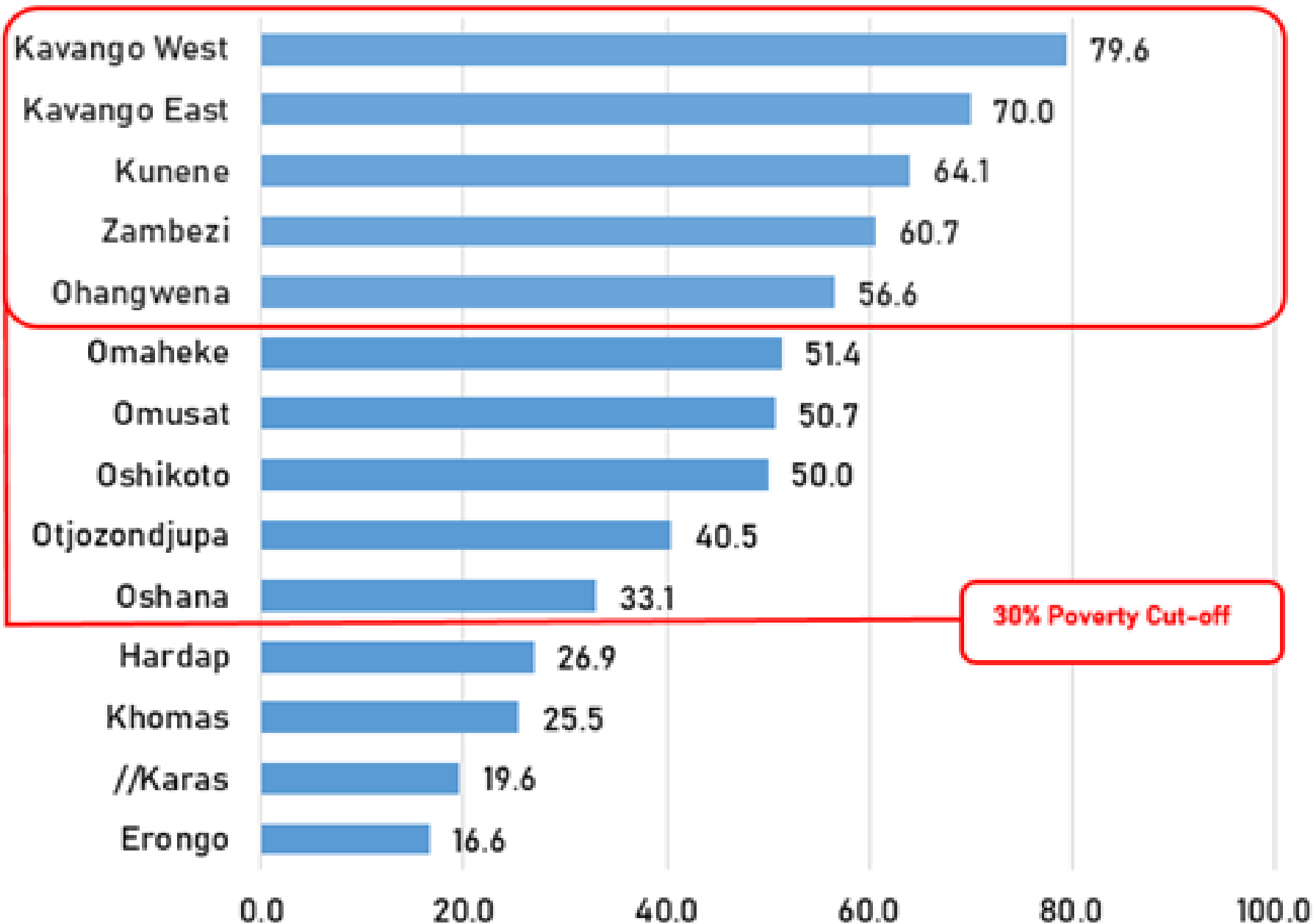
Incidence of Multidimensional Poverty by Languages Spoken (H)(2021)



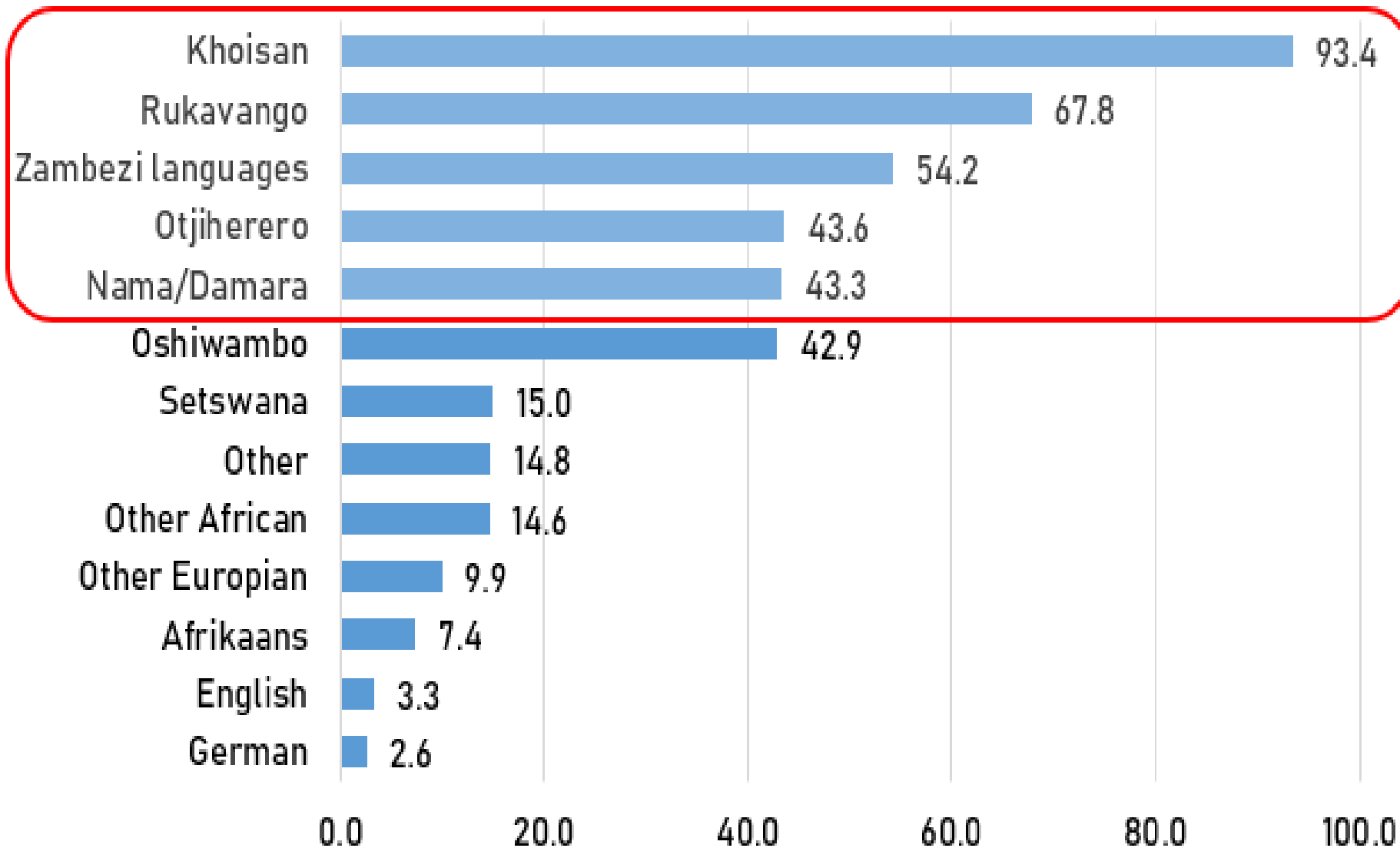
MPI Indicators



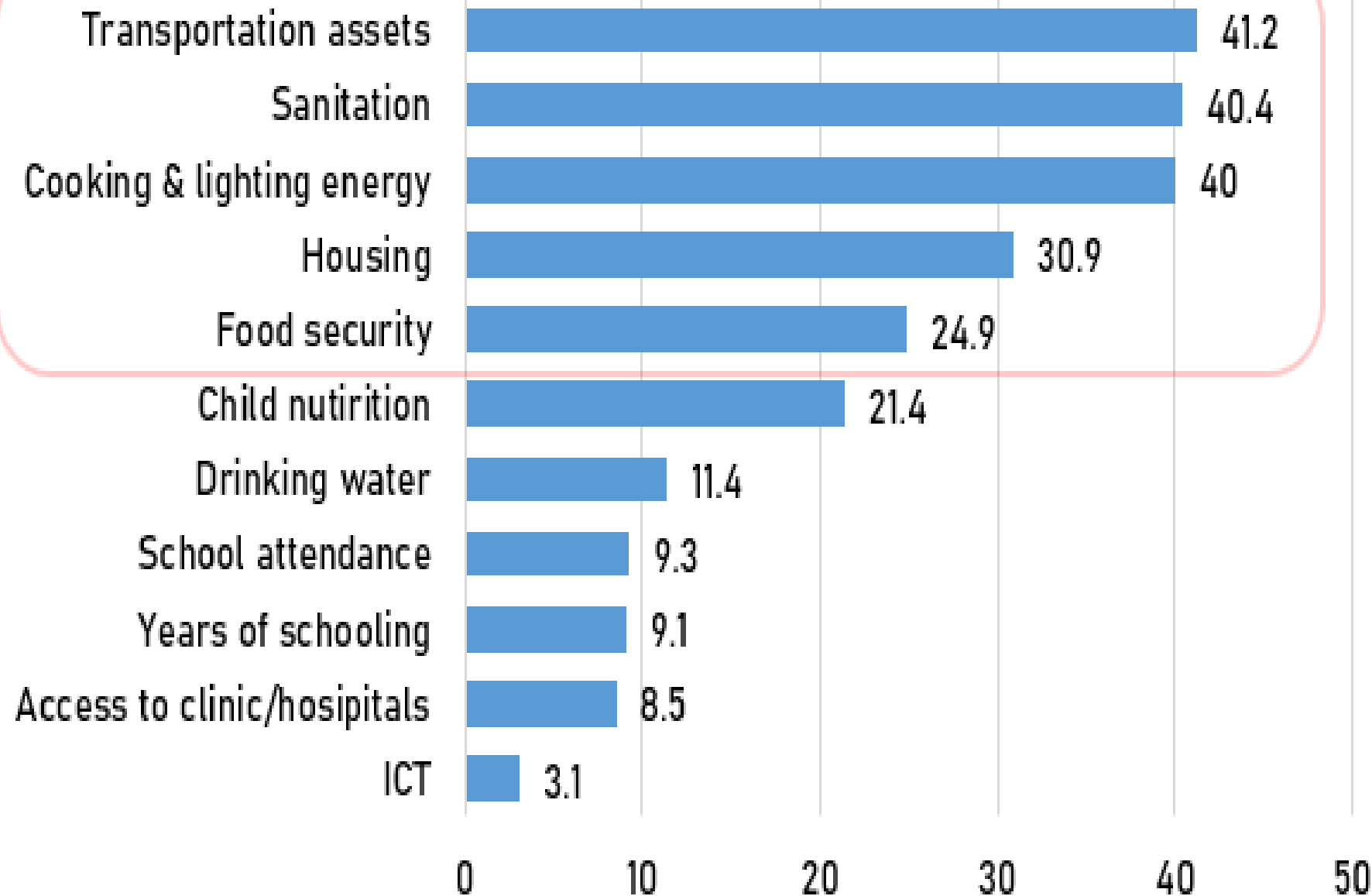
Incidence of Multidimensional Poverty (H)(2021) by Region



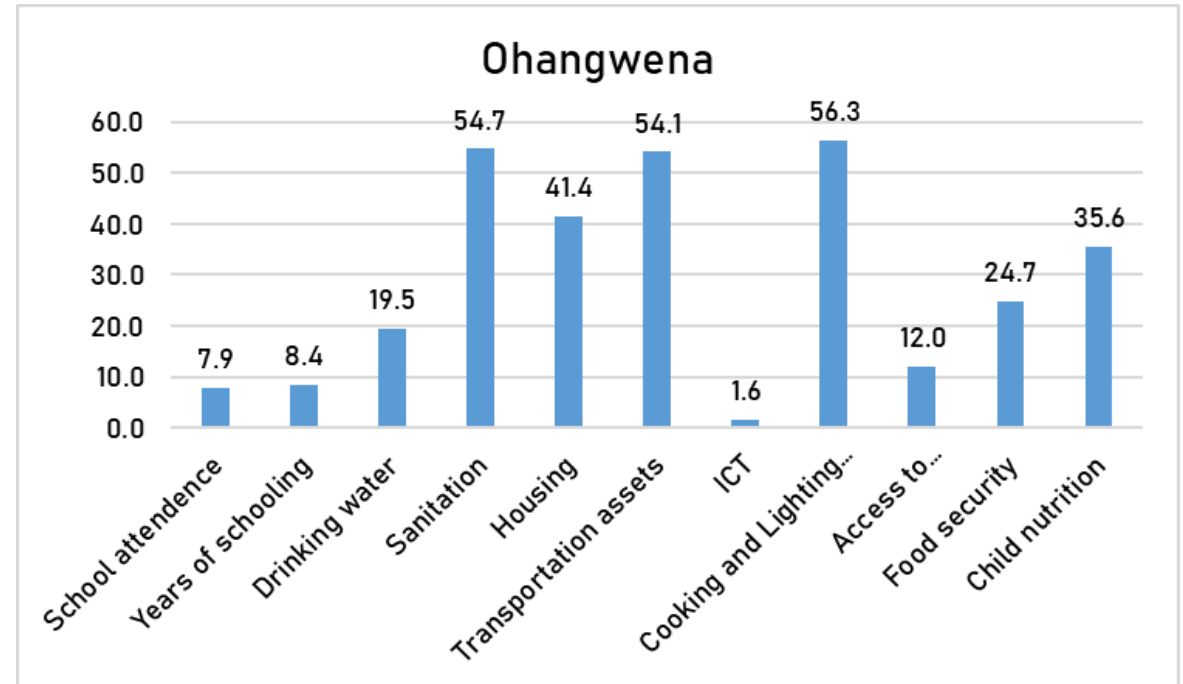
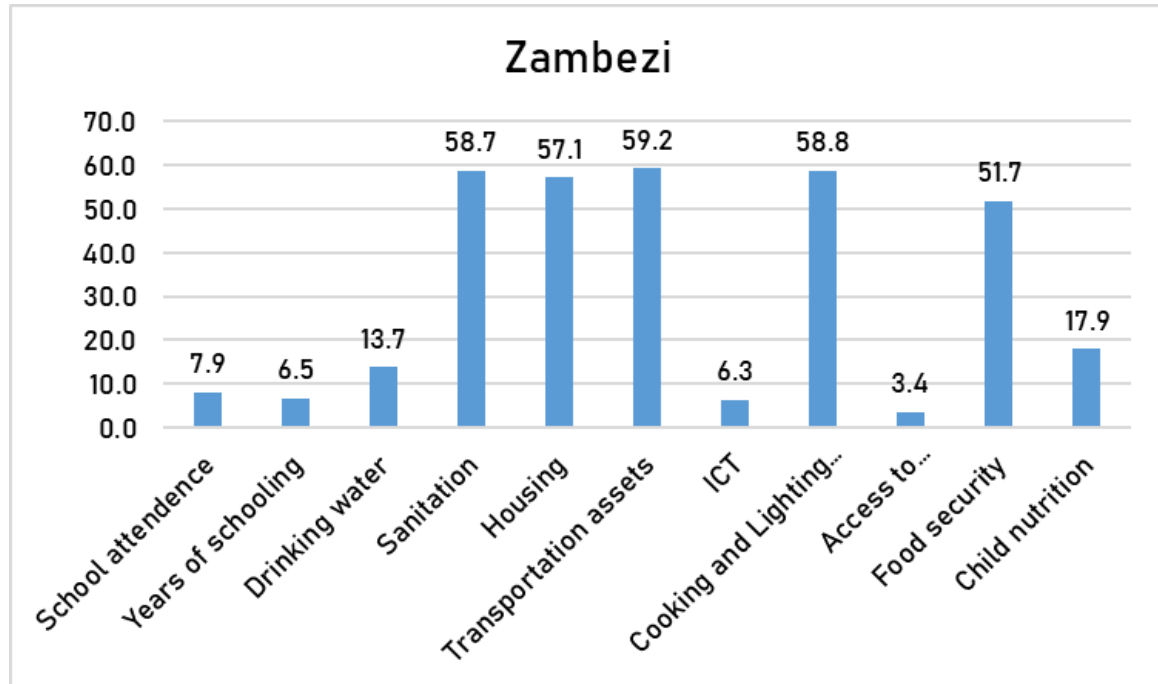
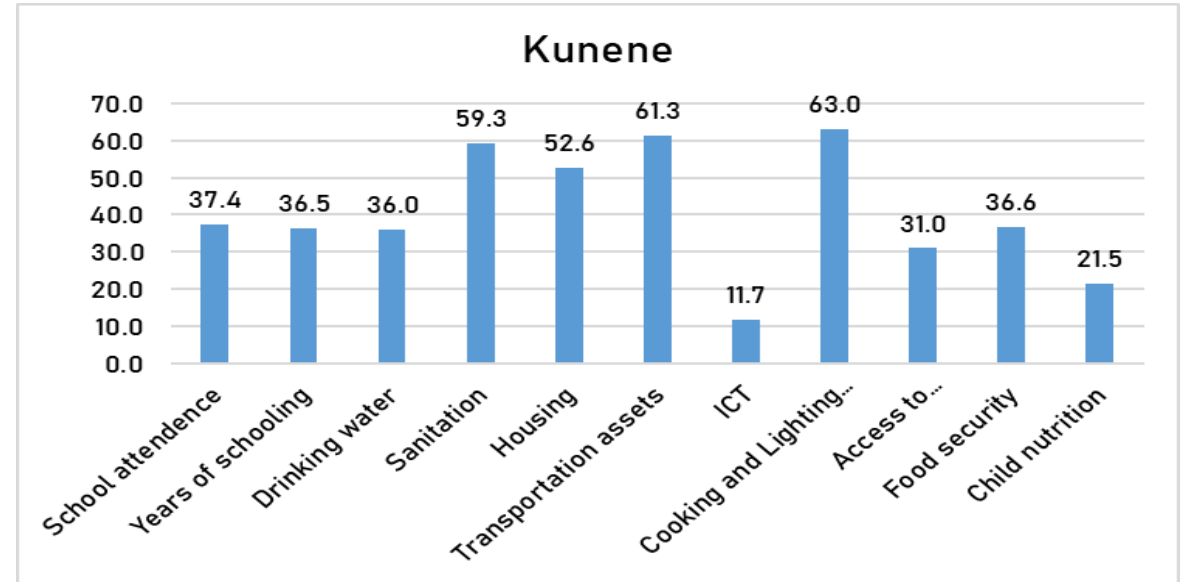
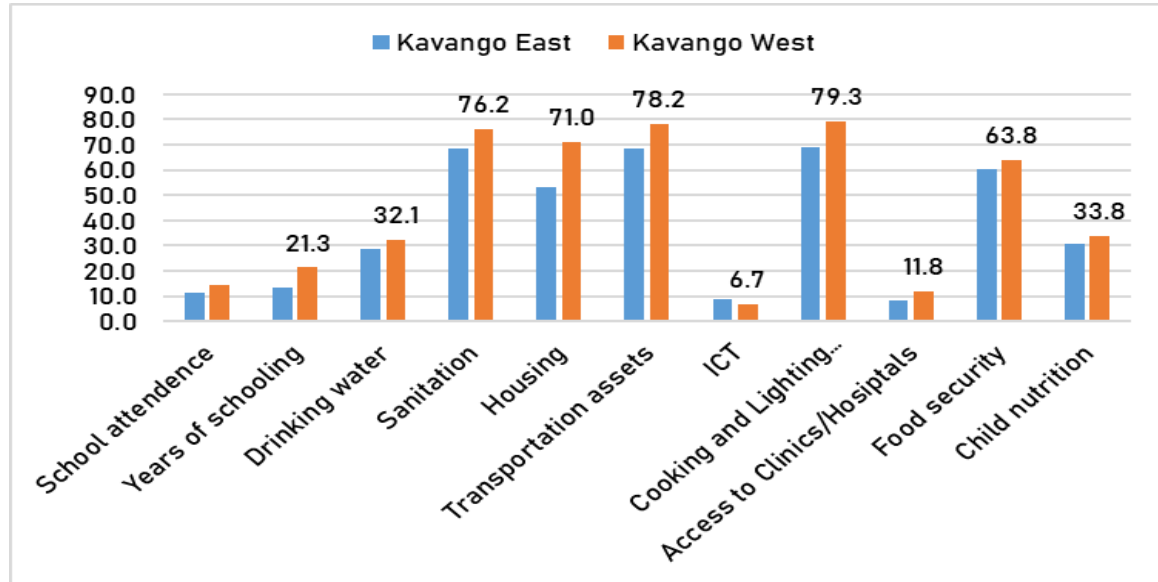
Incidence of Multidimensional Poverty by Languages Spoken (H)(2021)



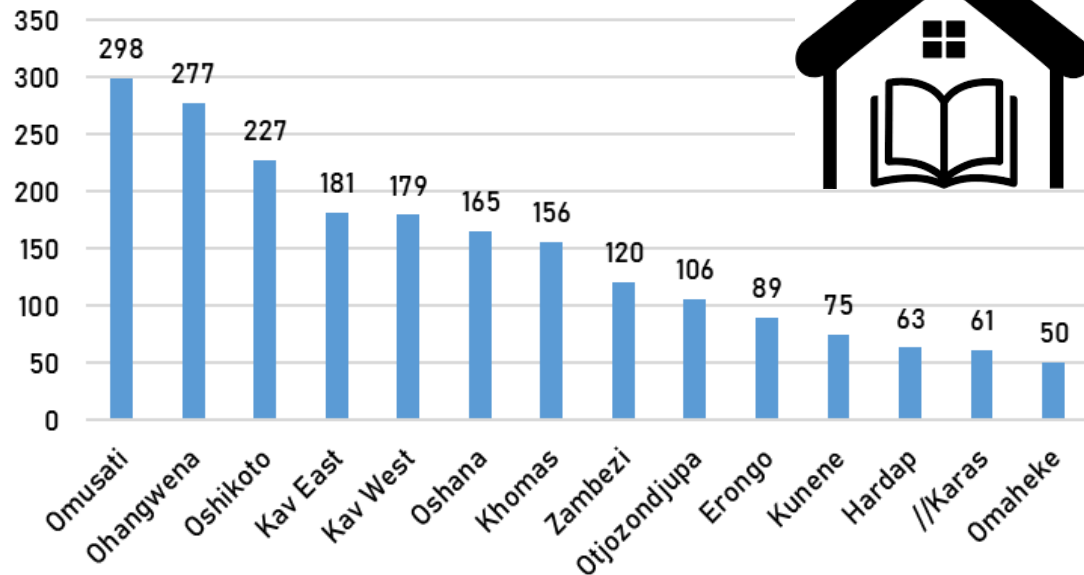
MPI Indicators



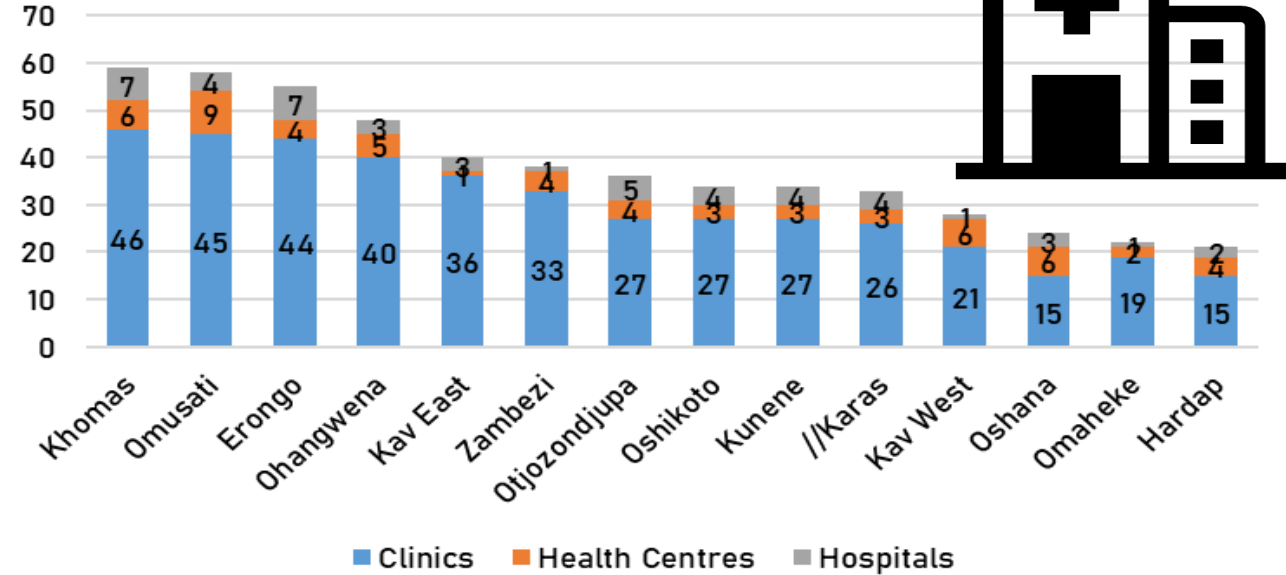
Regional Poverty Profile



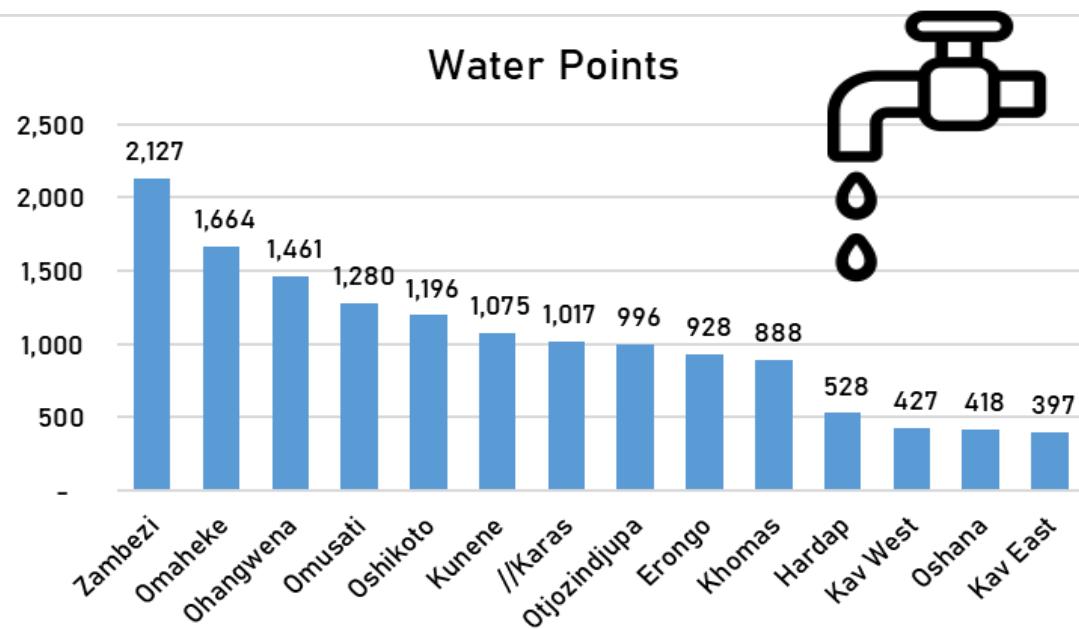
Education Facilities



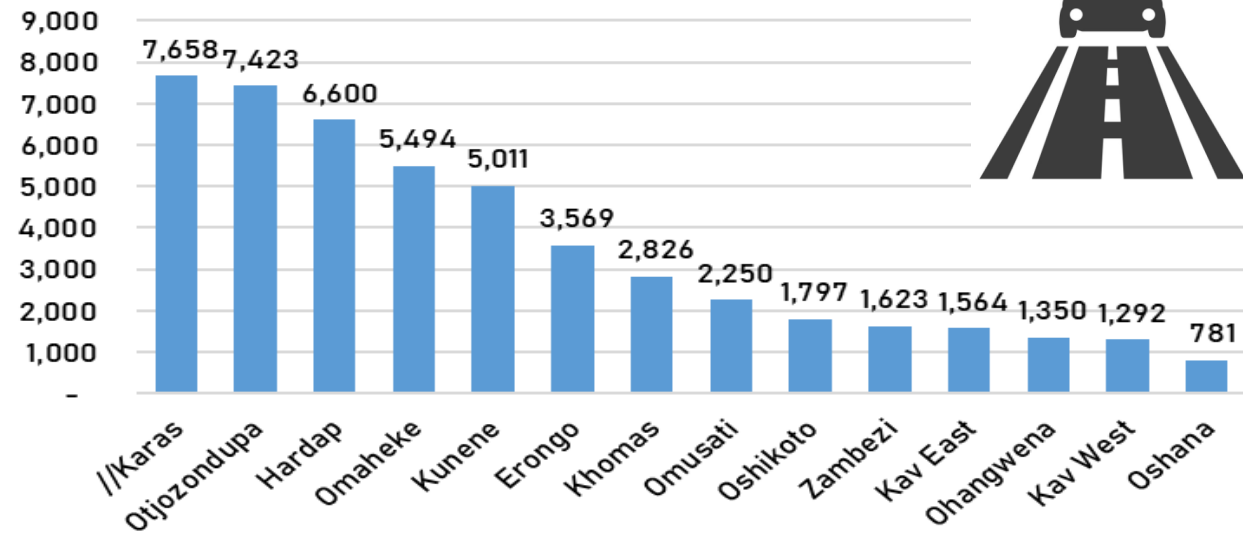
Health Facilities



Water Points



Road Networks Distance (Km)



Unemployment

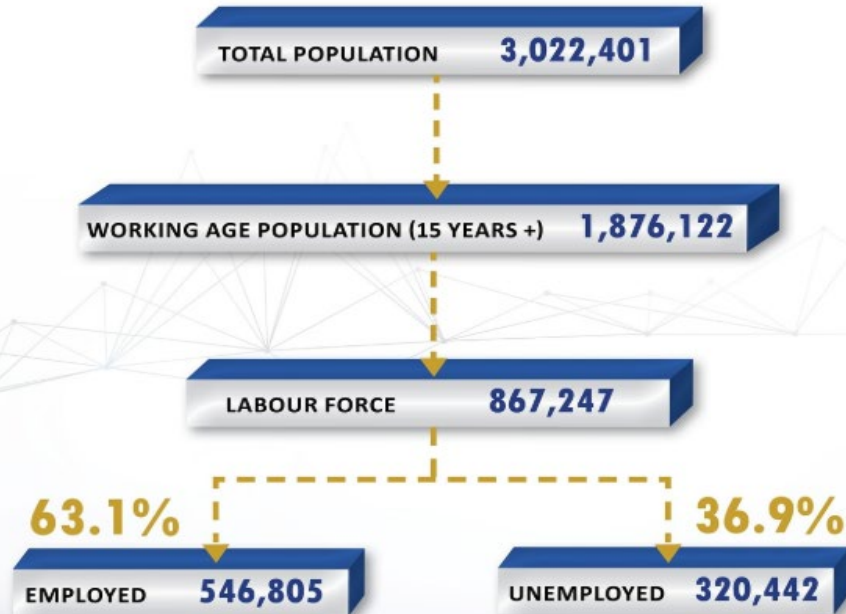
Structural Features And Causes Of High Unemployment in Namibia

Limited Size of Domestic Market; Economic Dualism and Labour Market Segmentation; Declining Productivity in Agriculture; Weak Performance of the Manufacturing Sector; Other Factors. Industrialization; Small Scale Industries; Development of Agriculture.

RESULTS LABOUR FORCE REPORT



Statistical highlights in the 2023 PHC Labour Force Report

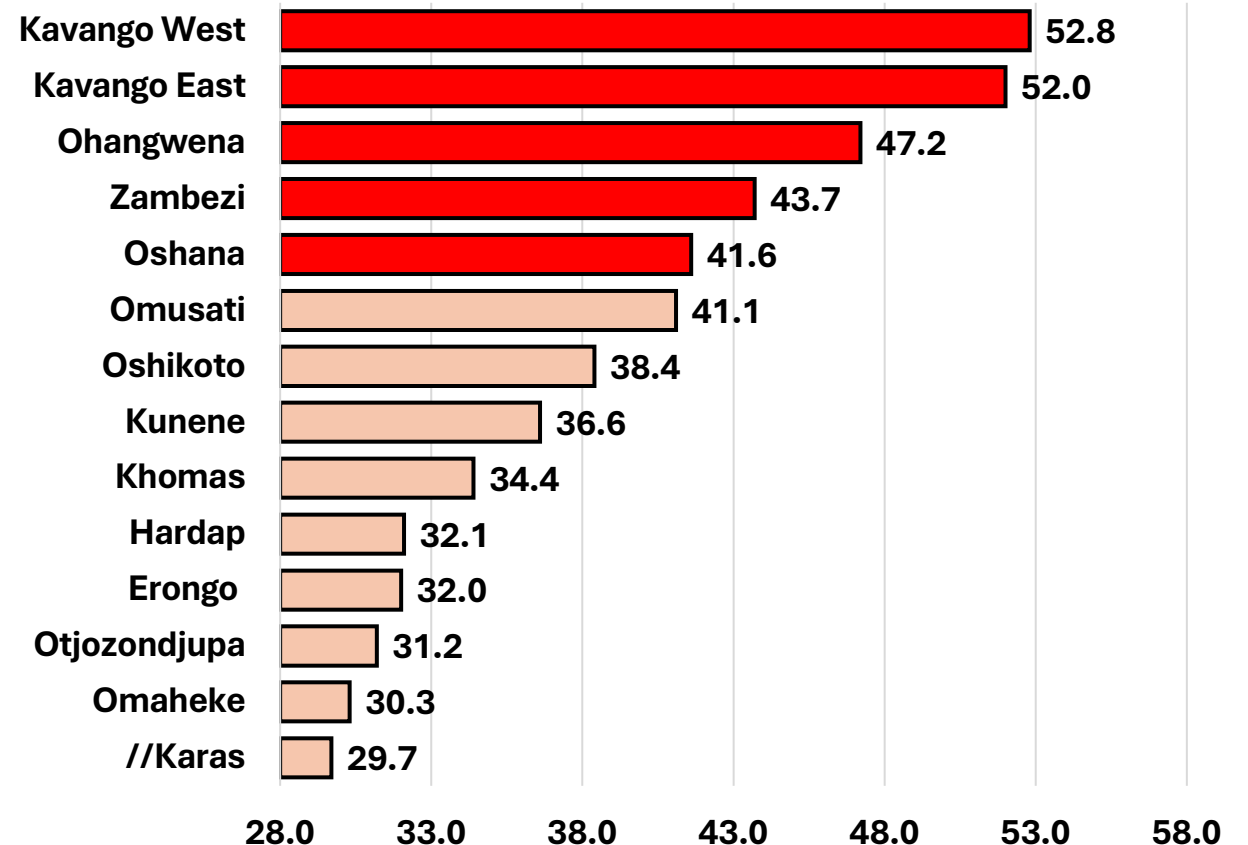


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Top 5 Regions with the highest Unemployment Rate (%) in 2023



1. High Youth Unemployment:

2. Limited Access to Education and Skills Development:

3. Socioeconomic Inequality and Poverty:

4. Challenges in Rural Areas:

PROBLEM

Namibia has a high youth unemployment rate, with many young people struggling to find jobs after completing their education.

CAUSES

Limited job opportunities, a mismatch between skills and labor market demands, and a lack of entry-level positions contribute to this problem.

CONSEQUENCES

High unemployment can lead to frustration, social unrest, and increased crime rates.

PROBLEM

Many Namibian youth lack access to quality education and skills development programs, hindering their ability to enter the job market.

CAUSES

Limited resources, infrastructure, and opportunities in rural areas, as well as the high cost of education, are major barriers.

CONSEQUENCES

A lack of education and skills can lead to lower earning potential and increased vulnerability to poverty and unemployment.

PROBLEM

Namibia has a high level of socioeconomic inequality, with a significant portion of the population living in poverty.

CAUSES

Unequal distribution of income, wealth, and land ownership, as well as limited access to basic services, contribute to this problem.

CONSEQUENCES

Poverty and inequality can lead to social unrest, crime, and limited opportunities for youth.

PROBLEM

Youth in rural areas face additional challenges, including limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

CAUSES

Lack of infrastructure, limited job opportunities, and remoteness contribute to these challenges.

CONSEQUENCES

Rural youth are more likely to be unemployed and face limited opportunities for advancement.

Measures to addressing these challenges through Adaptive Social protection

▪ **Investing in Education**

Investing in quality education and skills development programs can help equip young people with the skills they need to succeed in the labor market.

▪ **Promoting Economic Opportunities**

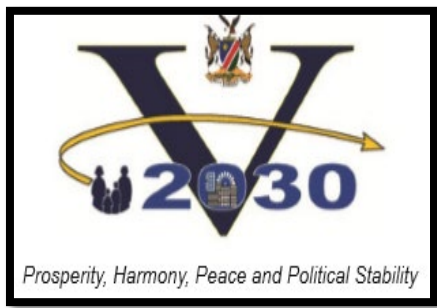
Creating economic opportunities for young people, such as through job creation and entrepreneurship initiatives, is crucial.

▪ **Improving Healthcare Access**

Ensuring access to quality healthcare services, including mental health services, is essential for the well-being of youth.

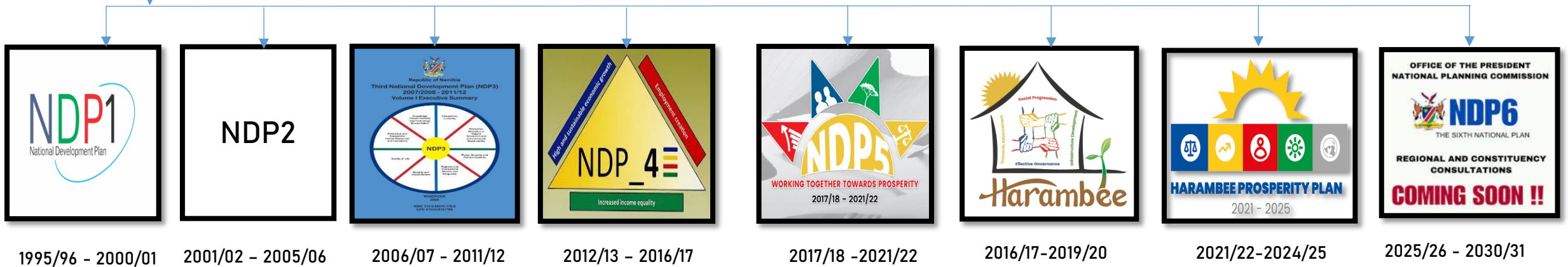
▪ **Addressing Inequality**

Tackling inequality and poverty is crucial for creating a more just and equitable society where all young people have the opportunity to thrive.



Social Protection [Policy and Legal Framework]

- ❑ Namibia's social protection system is embedded in Vision 2030 – the country's guiding development strategy. The vision was crafted to, amongst other goals, ensure that: "Poverty is reduced to the minimum, the existing pattern of income-distribution is equitable, and disparity is at the minimum." Vision 2030 is being implemented through a series of five-year National Development Plans, currently in its fifth edition - National Development Plan (NDP5) and a New NDP(6) will soon be unveiled.



- ❑ The Harambee Prosperity Plan (I) and (II), which call for the implementation of the national policy framework on social protection. The country's social protection system, built on a comprehensive life-cycle approach,
- ❑ Many elements of social protection are further discussed within the [Blueprint on Wealth Redistribution and Poverty Eradication](#), based on Namibia's ratification of relevant international and regional Conventions and Treaties on social protection, including from the ILO and AU.
- ❑ The concept and scope of 'Social Protection' is understood differently in different contexts. The Namibian Government has emphasized the importance of a broad, comprehensive approach to social protection, or, rather, '[comprehensive social policy approach](#)' that emphasizes the need for social and equity considerations in all sectors of society.



Tripple Crisis worsening... SPS must respond sufficiently



SPS Have evolved and expanded in all aspects...

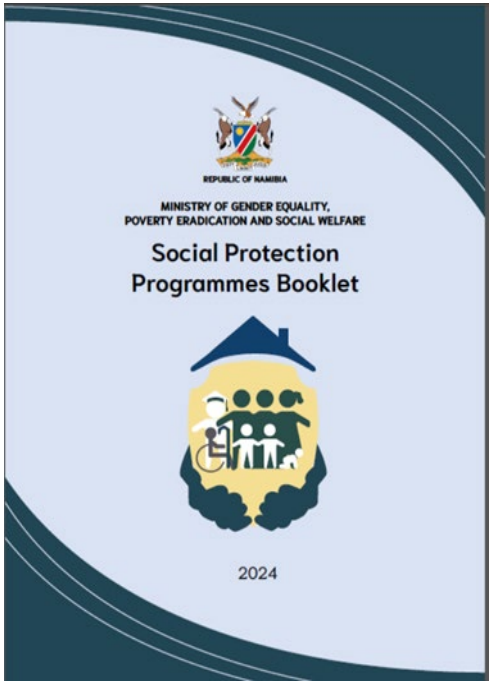
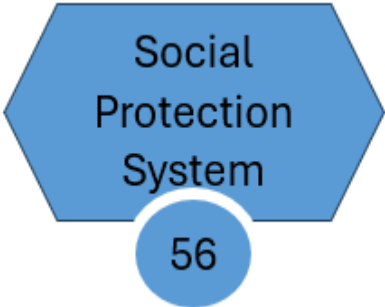
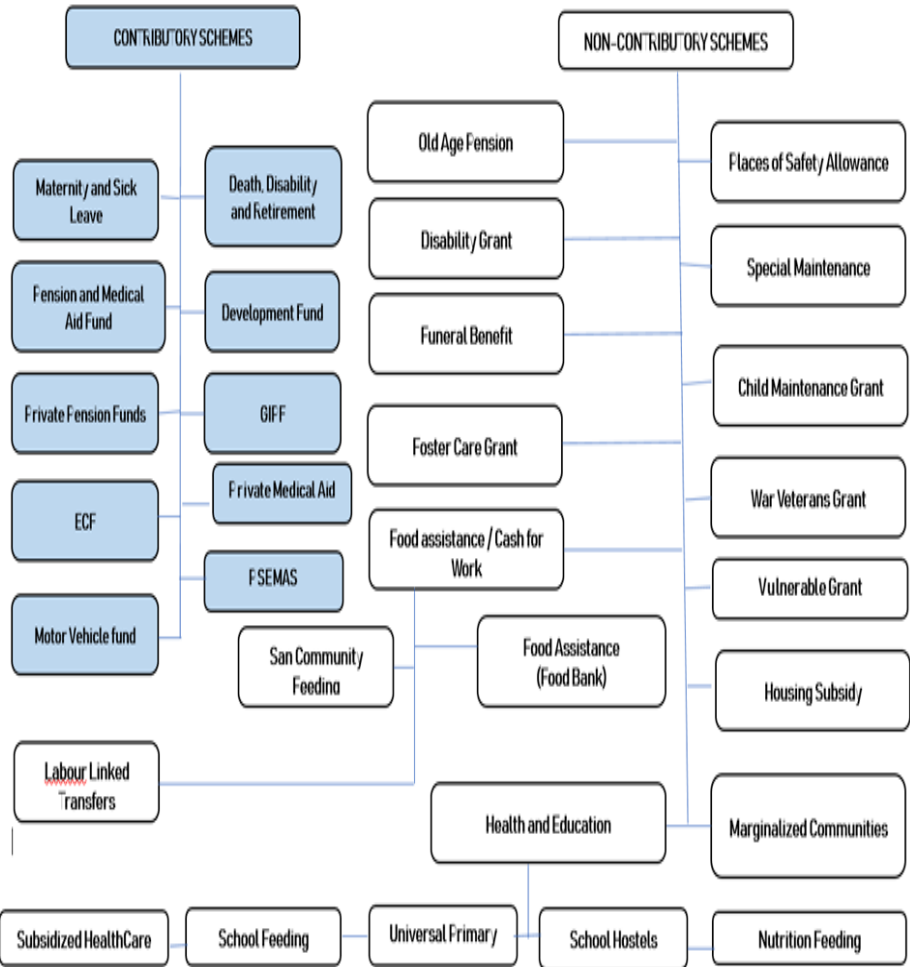
Early 2000s

Late 2000s

Late 2000s

Main social protection schemes at a glance

Name of programme	Funding type	No. of beneficiaries / claims paid; members
Child grants: Maintenance, Special Maintenance, Foster care grant, Place of safety	Tax-funded	146,249 as at 03/2013; NA
Funeral benefit	Tax-funded	Approx. 20,000 for 2011/12; ---NA--
Basic/OAP and Disability pension	Tax-funded	170,319 as at 03/2013; ----NA
Veterans' subvention	Tax-funded	24,682 for 2012/13;
Medical expenses	Contributory	8,167; 23,869 employers for 2009/10
Compensation claims	Contributory	1,271; 23,869 employers for 2009/10
Capital pensions – APF	Contributory	----- ; 23,869 employers for 2009/10
Pensions – APF	Contributory	649 for 2011/12; 23,869 employers for 2009/10
Maternity	Contributory	17,483; 348,141 employees & 37,585 employers for 2009/10
Sick Leave	Contributory	4,513; 348,141 employees & 37,585 employers for 2009/10
Death	Contributory	2,128; 348,141 employees & 37,585 employers for 2009/10
Retirement / Disability	Contributory	1,719; 348,141 employees & 37,585 employers for 2009/10
Compensation payments	Contributory	Total claims were at 133,893
Hospital and medical fees	Contributory	for 2010/11 for all MVA benefits
Medical management	Contributory	
Pension benefits	Contributory	98,304 contributors in 2011/12
Lump sum on retirement	Contributory	98,304 contributors in 2011/12
Death benefits	Contributory	98,304 contributors in 2011/12
Withdrawal benefits	Contributory	98,304 contributors in 2011/12
Funeral benefits	Contributory	98,304 contributors in 2011/12
Private pensions	Contributory	37,948; 251,741 contributors in 2012
Medical schemes	Contributory	1,057,830 claims in 2009;



20+ Programs

30+ Programs

50+ Programs

SPS Have evolved and expanded in all aspects...

CASH TRANSFERS PROGRAMMES

Old Age Grant
Foster Parent Grant
Maintenance Grant
Vulnerable Children's (VC) Grant
Child Disability Grant (special maintenance Grant)
Short Term Emergency Grants
Conditional Basic Income Grant (CBIG)
Veterans Subventions Grants
Veterans Improvement Grant
Emergency Assistance Grant

COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMMES

Marginalized Communities- Special Feeding Programme
Marginalized Communities- Burial Services
Marginalized Communities - Education Support Programme
Marginalized Communities- Livelihood Empowerment Programme
Marginalized Communities- Housing & Sanitation Provision
Community Forest Programme

PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMMES

Food/Cash for Work Programme
Rural Sanitation Programme

IN-KIND ASSISTANCE

Namibian School Feeding Programme (NSFP)
Drought Relief Programme
National Resettlement Programme
Income Generating Activities
Funeral Benefit Grant
Veterans Funeral Service
Disability Individual Support Programme
Disability Education Support Programme
Disability Case Management
Equipment Aid Scheme Programme
Technical Vocational Education and training TVET Programme
Namibian Correctional Service- Vocational Programme.
Social Welfare Services for Tertiary Institutions
Namibia College of Open learning- Scholarship Programme
Namibia Agriculture Mechanization and Seed Improvement Project
Environmental Investment Fund Grant facilities
Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund Loan Programme
Micro-Finance Scheme Programme
Regional Specific Action Plans Programme
Rural Development Centres Programme
One Region One Initiative
Support Resource for Poor Farmers Programme

SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

ECD-Educators Allowance Scheme
Subsidies and Grants for Residential Child Care Facilities for Children
Housing Saving Schemes Programme
Free and/or Subsidized Health Care Services
Reclassification of Private Patients to State Patients
Housing Units for Independent Low-Income Older
Treatment to Clients Addicted to Alcohol and Other Drugs
Build Together Programme
Provision of Legal Aid Programme
Family Strengthening Programme - SOS Children Village
Family Strengthening Programme - Project Hope

SOCIAL INSURANCE PROGRAMMES

Employee Compensation Fund
Maternity Leave, Sick Leave, and Death Benefit Fund (MSD)
Public Service Employees Medical Aid scheme (PSEMAS)
Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF)
Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVA FUND)

OVERVIEW

Currently

Social
Protection
System

56

Cash
Transfer

10

Children: 5
Youth : 1
Seniors : 3
Across : 1

In-Kind
Assistance

22

Children: 2
Youth : 14
Seniors : 1
Across : 5

Social Care
Assistance

11

Children: 3
Youth : 1
Seniors : 1
Across : 6

Community
Based

6

Children: 1
Youth : 1
Seniors : 1
Across : 3

Public Works

2

Children: 0
Youth : 2
Seniors : 0
Across : 0

Social
Insurance

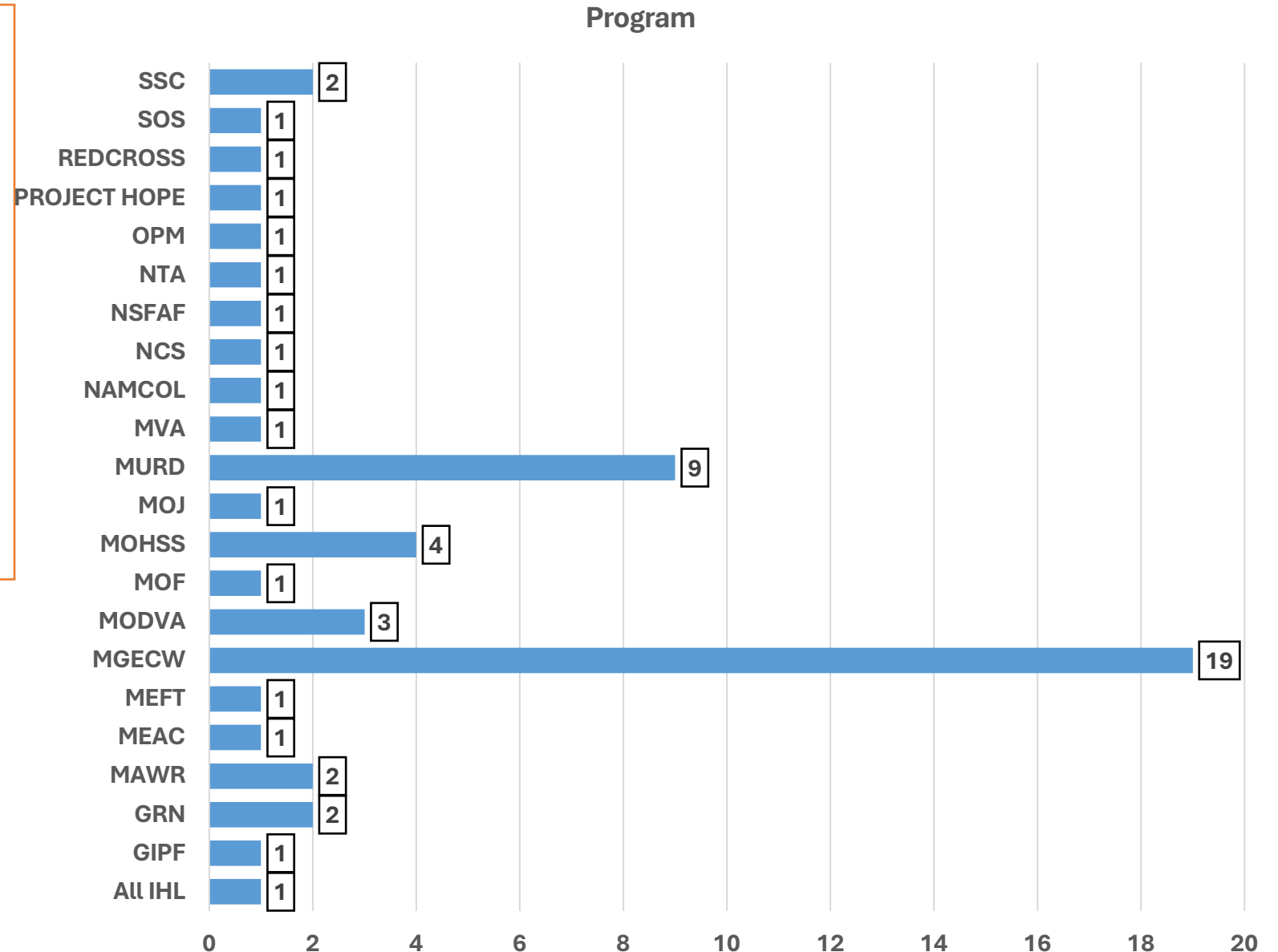
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Contributory
Benefits

SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

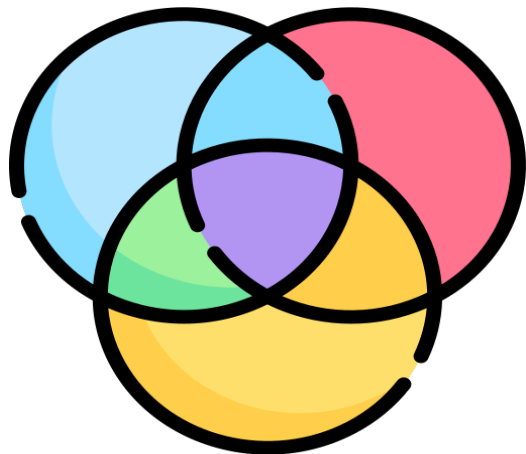
GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION IN NAMIBIA

- ☐ Namibia's social protection system is governed by a **multi-faceted approach**.
- ☐ The **mandate for social protection** is embedded within the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, which plays a central coordination body.
- ☐ The Ministry plays a crucial role in social protection governance by **developing and implementing policies**.
- ☐ There are **more than 22 entities** that implements SPP across the country.



IMPLEMENTATION

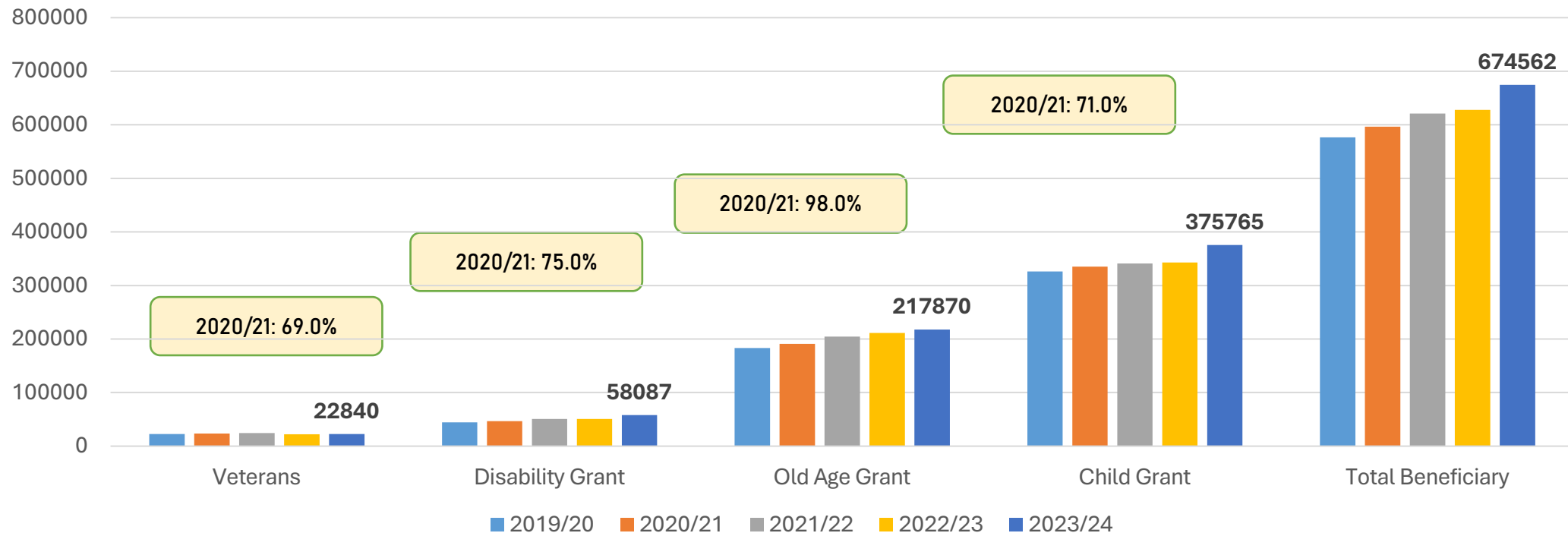
Programmes Implemented by Multiple Entities



Programmes	Entities
1. Social Welfare Service for Tertiary Institutions	All IHL
2. Environmental Investment Fund Grant facilities	GRN/EIF
3. Equipment Aid Scheme Programme	GRN/MIT
4. Disability Education Support Programme	MGECW/ NSFAF
5. Public Service Employees Medical Aid scheme (PSEMAS)	MOF/MOSS/OPM
6. Build Together Programme	MURD/RC
7. Namibian Correctional Service- Vocational Programme	NCS/NTA

COVERAGE

- Coverage expansion has been a **priority over the past decades**, with regular increases in the number of beneficiaries for key programs.
 - There is a **strong increase in coverage across** the social assistance system and
- The **two largest programs in terms of coverage** are The Child Grant and Old Age Pension Grant and their total beneficiary have increased faster.
 - The **combined number of beneficiaries for child grants has overtaken** coverage of old age and disability grants

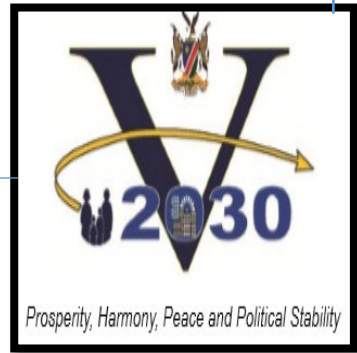


FINANCING OF SOCIAL PROTECTION

How priorities are set in Government....

Development Planning Framework of Namibia

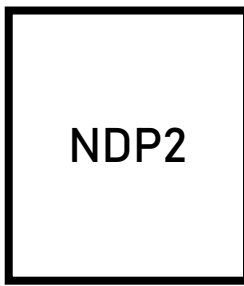
TNDP: 1991/92 to 1993/94



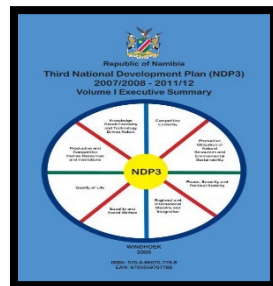
National Budget implements the Vision 2030 by financing the corresponding NDPs priorities



1995/96 - 2000/01



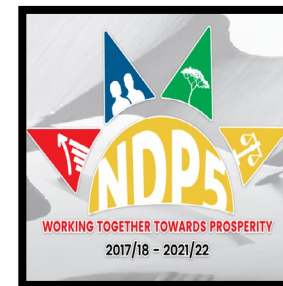
2001/02 - 2005/06



2006/07 - 2011/12



2012/13 - 2016/17



2017/18 - 2021/22



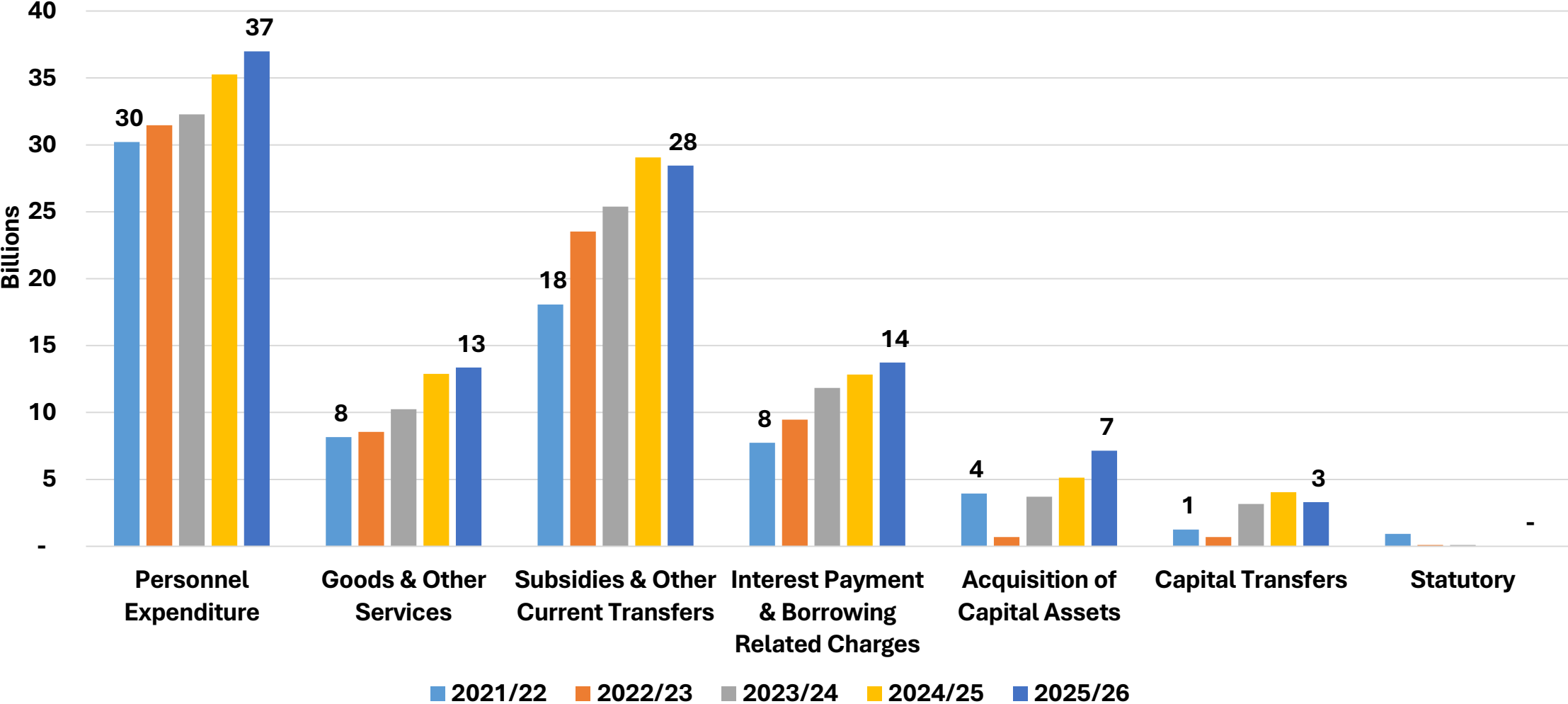
2016/17-2019/20



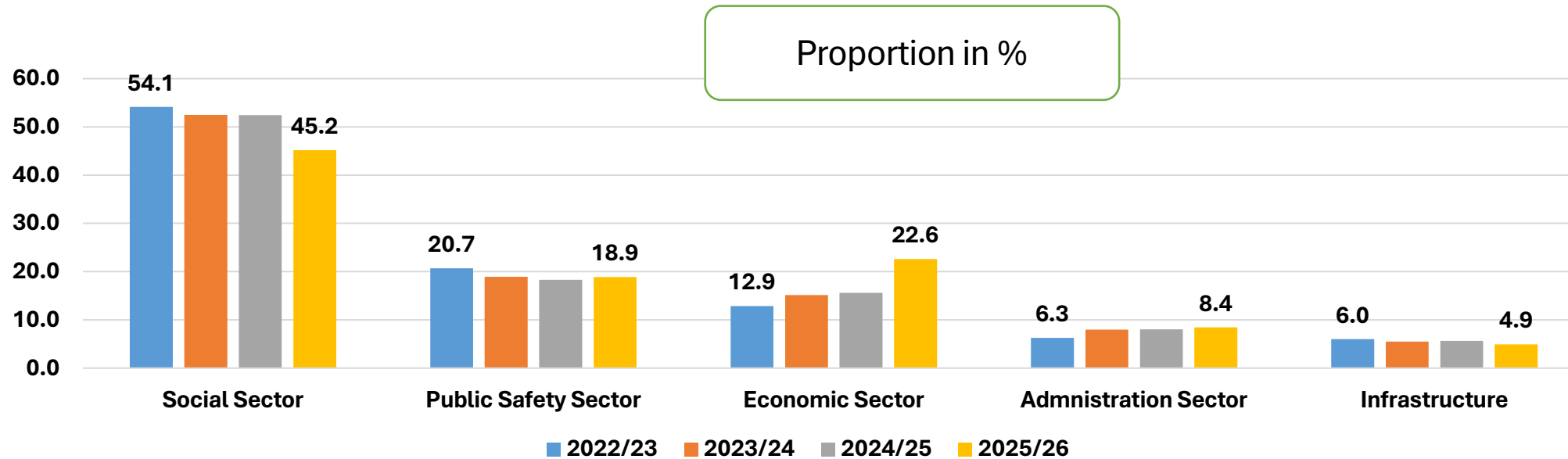
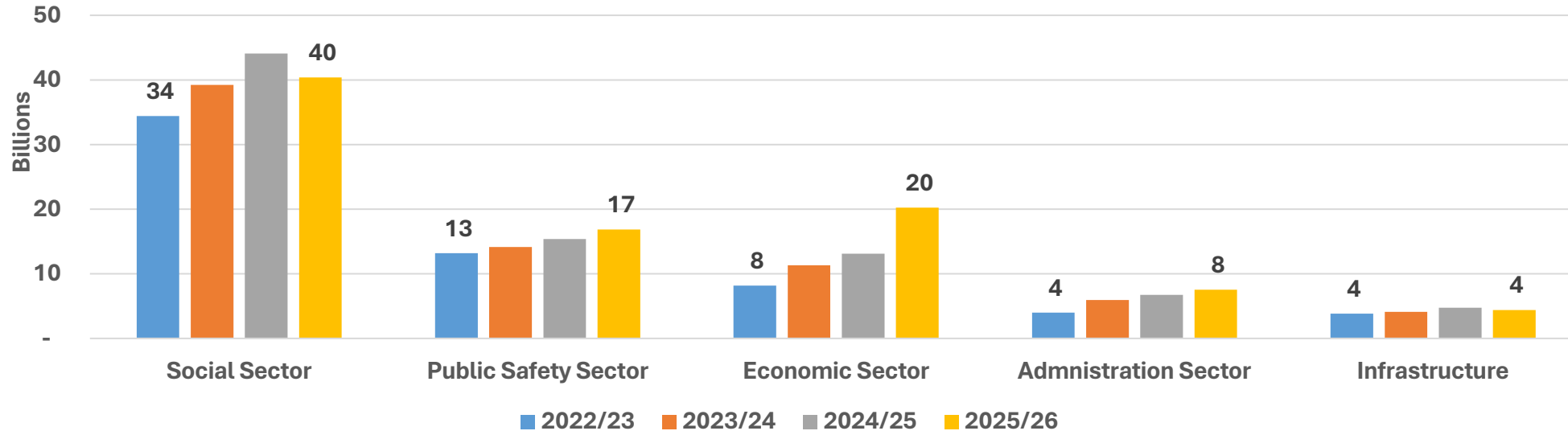
2025/26 - 2030/31

Expenditure by Sub-Division

Expenditure by Sub-Division (Inc. Interest)



Expenditure by sectors



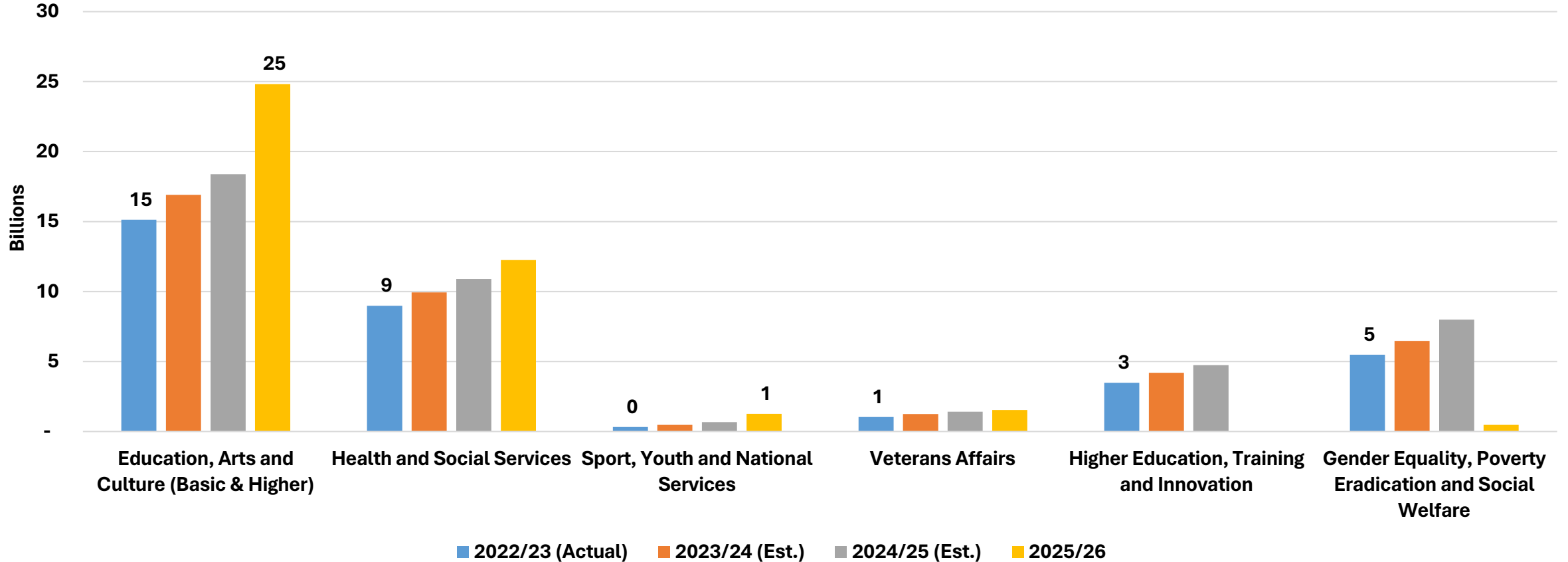
SOCIAL SECTOR



EDUCATION



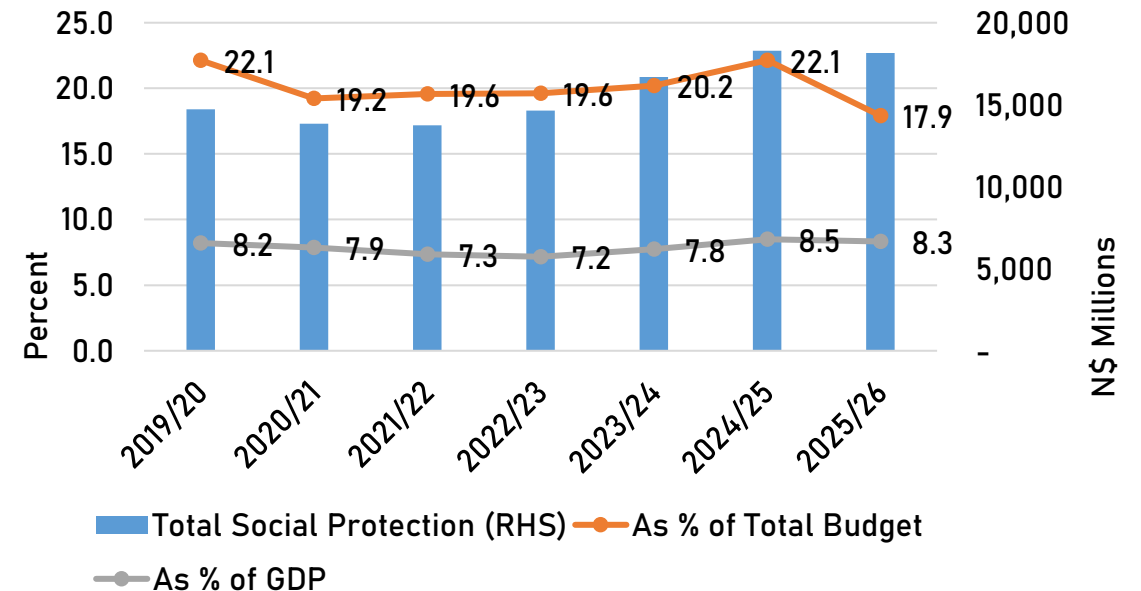
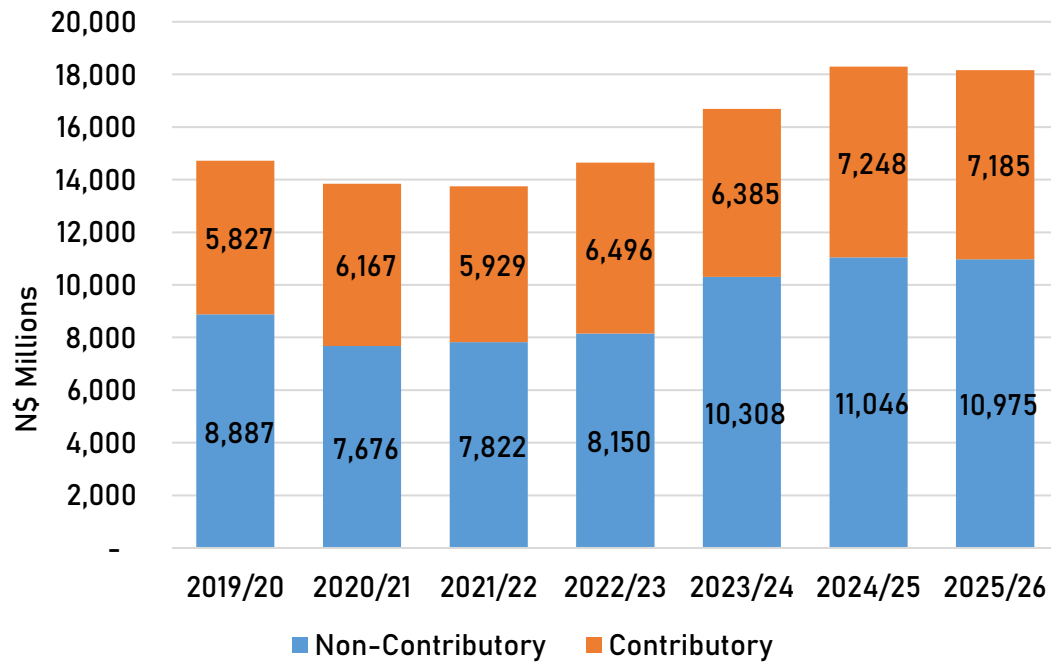
Social Protection



SIZE OF THE SPS PROGRAMME SPENDING.....

- Public spending on social protection has increased significantly, in absolute terms, over the period 2019 – 2025.
- Over the same period, total social protection spending averaged 7.7 % of GDP.
- On average, more than 50.0% of all social protection spending is towards non-contributory schemes.

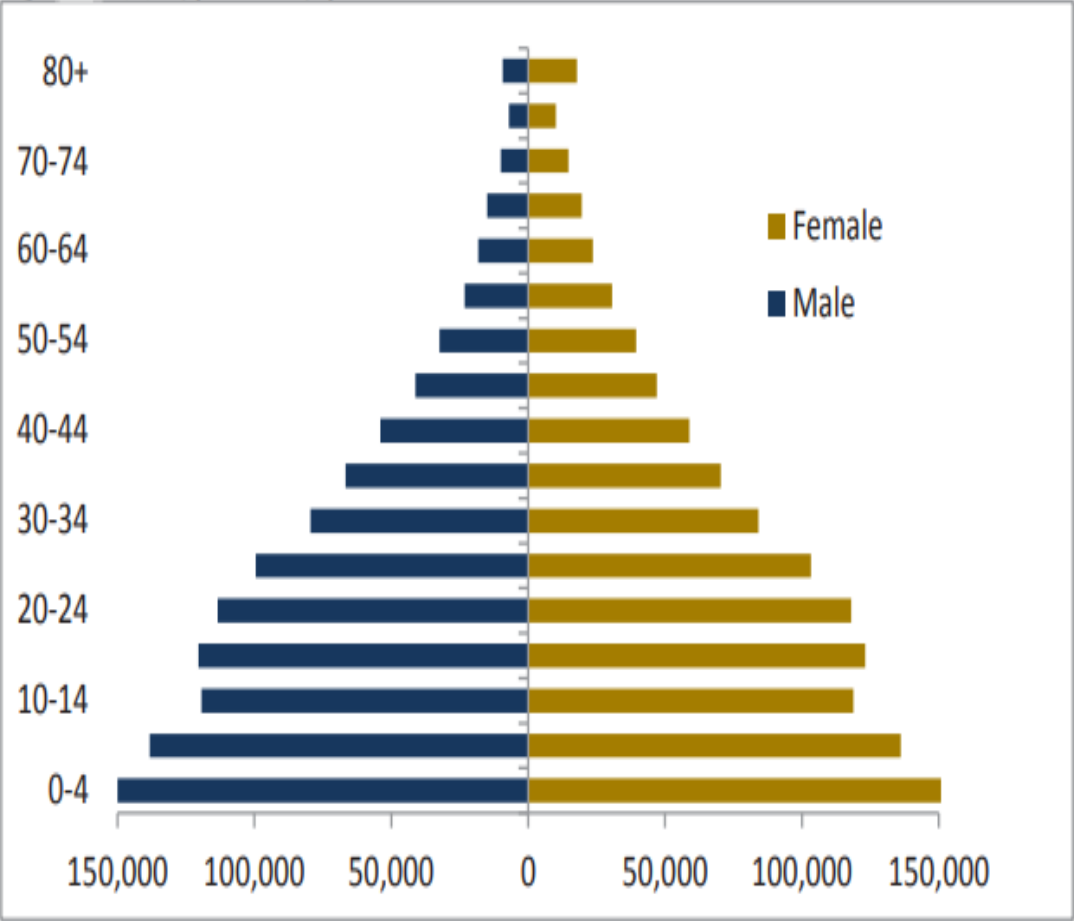
TRENDS IN SOCIAL PROTECTION SPENDING



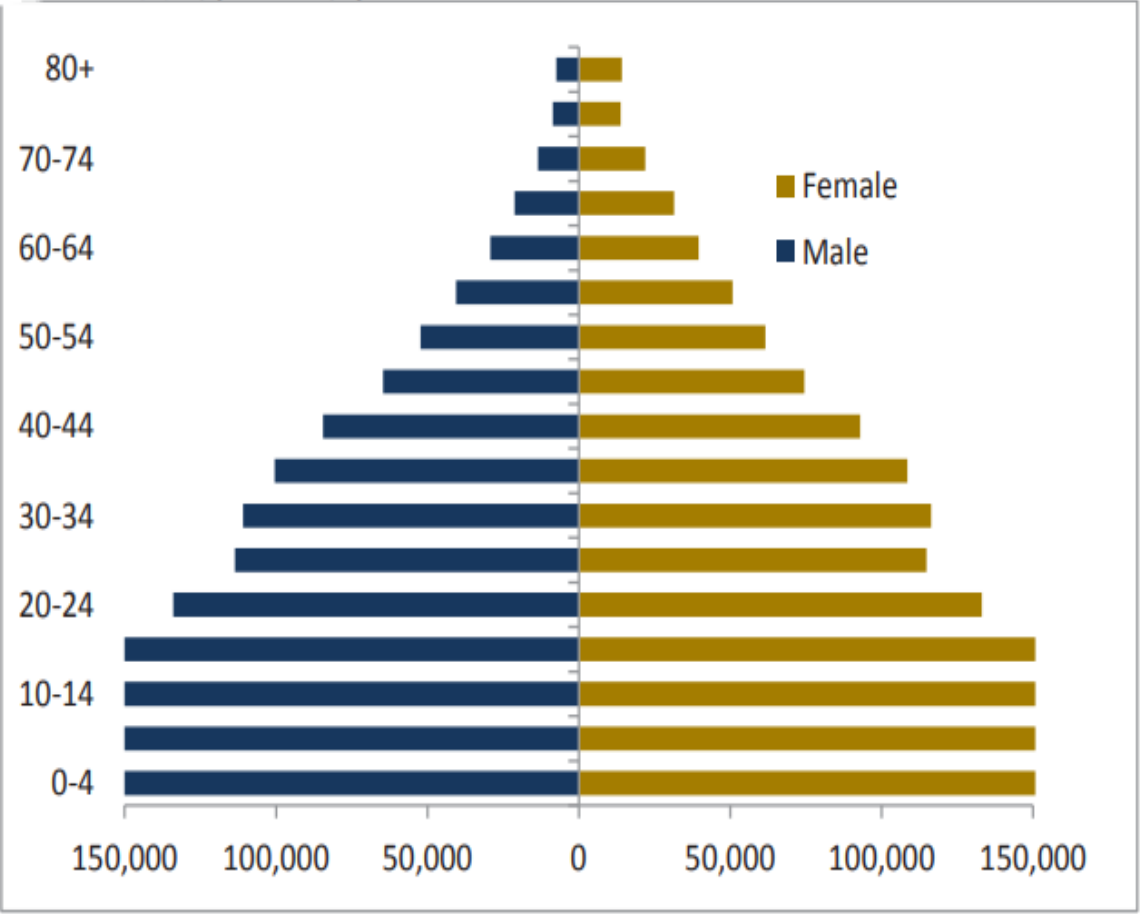
COMPOSITION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION SPENDING MUST BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
POPULATION DYNAMIC [DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE]

Population Structure

(a) Population Pyramid for Namibia, 2015



(b) Population Pyramid for Namibia, 2030

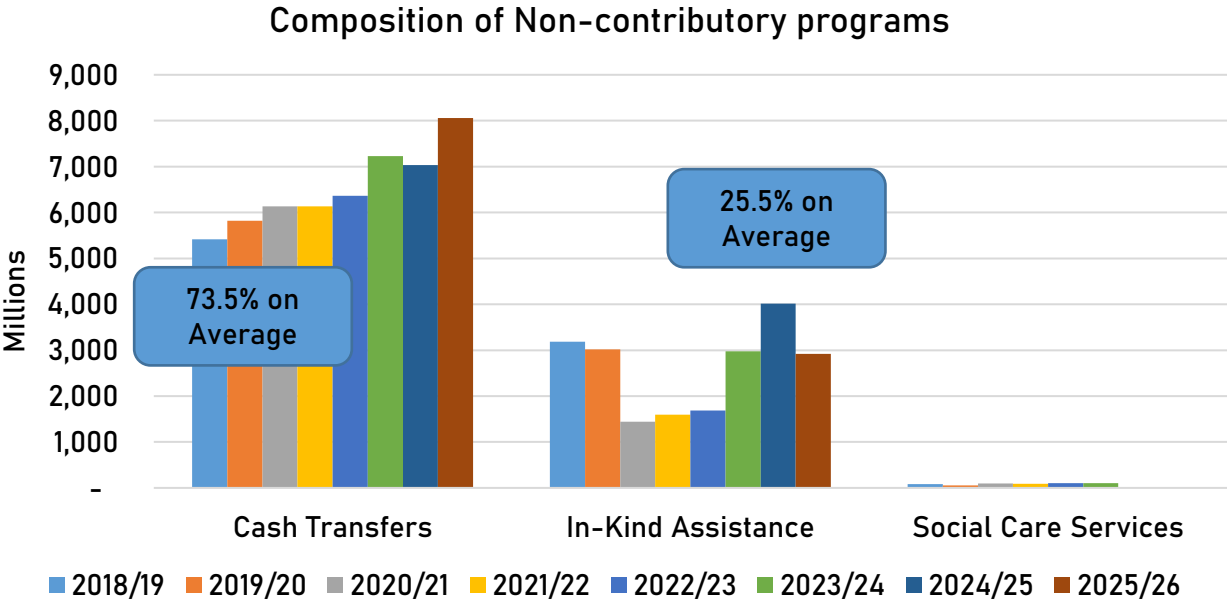


COMPOSITION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION SPENDING

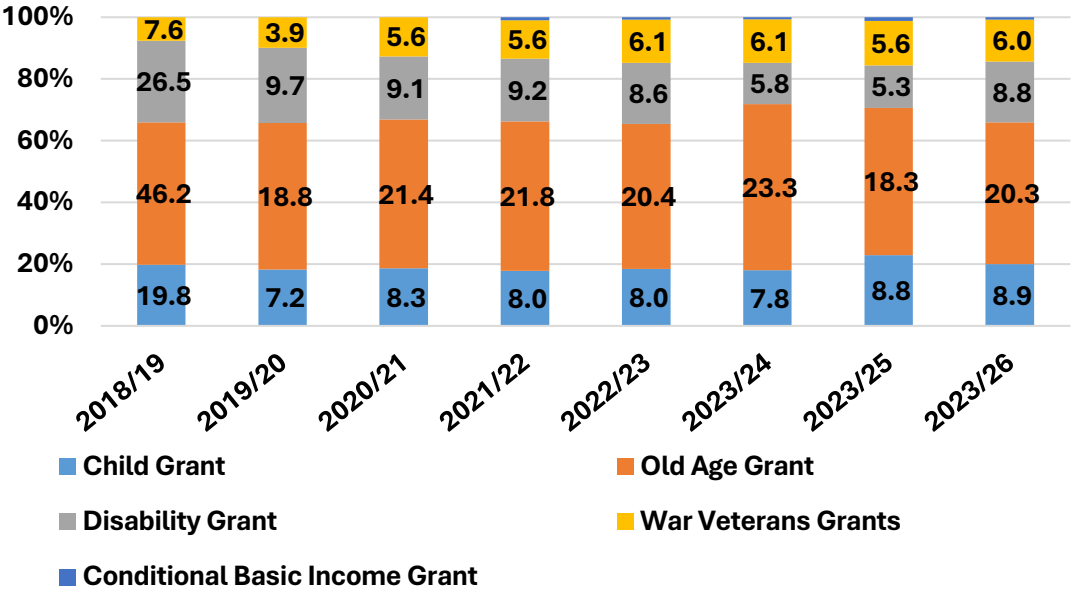
- **Composition of social protection spending is unequal:** a disproportionately low proportion of budget is spent on social care services as compared to Cash transfer and In-kind Assistance.
- **Social protection spending in Namibia is largely skewed towards the elderly,** raising concern over its overall contribution to early childhood development.
- In the 2025/26 budget, more than 20% (N\$3.6 billion) of the non-contributory social protection spending is **allocated towards the OAG**.
- When combined with the Veterans' benefits (16.0%) + all in-kinds for war veterans, which directly benefits the elderly, **total spending for the two accounts for more than 50%, compared to less than 10.0% for the Child Grants.**

The largest proportion of public fund allocated to social protection program are earmarked for **Cash Transfer**.

Within the in-kind category the tertiary bursary (NASFAF) remain the single largest program absorbing a large amount of spending



Composition of the Cash Transfer



Key Messages and Recommendations

1) Fragmentations, Dis-integrated programmes and inadequacy. Currently, there are significant gaps and overlaps caused by system fragmentation and weak program design, which generates costly inefficiencies, causes gaps or duplications in coverage, and makes it difficult for the population to understand their entitlements. These gaps and bottlenecks, compounded by a weak institutional framework, have reduced the SPS's impact.

- **Recommendation:** Namibia should consider implementing a cash-transfer flags-ship program that is able to replace other programs and that, eventually, becomes part of an integrated social insurance system. This would entail (i) Implementing a Universal basic income UBI, (ii) Phasing out overlapping social assistance programs, (iii) Integrating subsidies within the social assistance and social insurance programs.

Key Messages and Recommendations

2) Weak administrative systems and lack of an integrated registry of beneficiaries. Currently, automation is limited to payment systems of several programs, application processes are mainly paper based, and eligibility determination is manual. Lack of an integrated SPS database in the country hampers programme delivery and weakens coordination efforts.

- **Recommendation:** Government must expedite on-going processes to establish and operationalize an Integrated Social Registry, which can serve as a platform to link across social protection programs and information systems and help address this issue, among several others.

Key Messages and Recommendations

3) Fiscal Sustainability. Government face the challenge of insufficient funding to invest in a fully inclusive system. Sustainability of the fiscus to support the various social protection programs is expected to come under heavy pressure in as the number of beneficiaries rise. The deterioration of the fiscal space will negatively impact the entire social protection system.

- **Recommendations:** the main recommendation in this regards is to embark upon a Re-allocation of public expenditures exercise. This includes assessing on-going budget allocations through Public Expenditure Reviews (PERs) and other types of thematic budget analyses to minimize wastage and increase efficiency gain.