



# Republic of Namibia

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## **Namibia's National Progress on Adaptive Social Protection**

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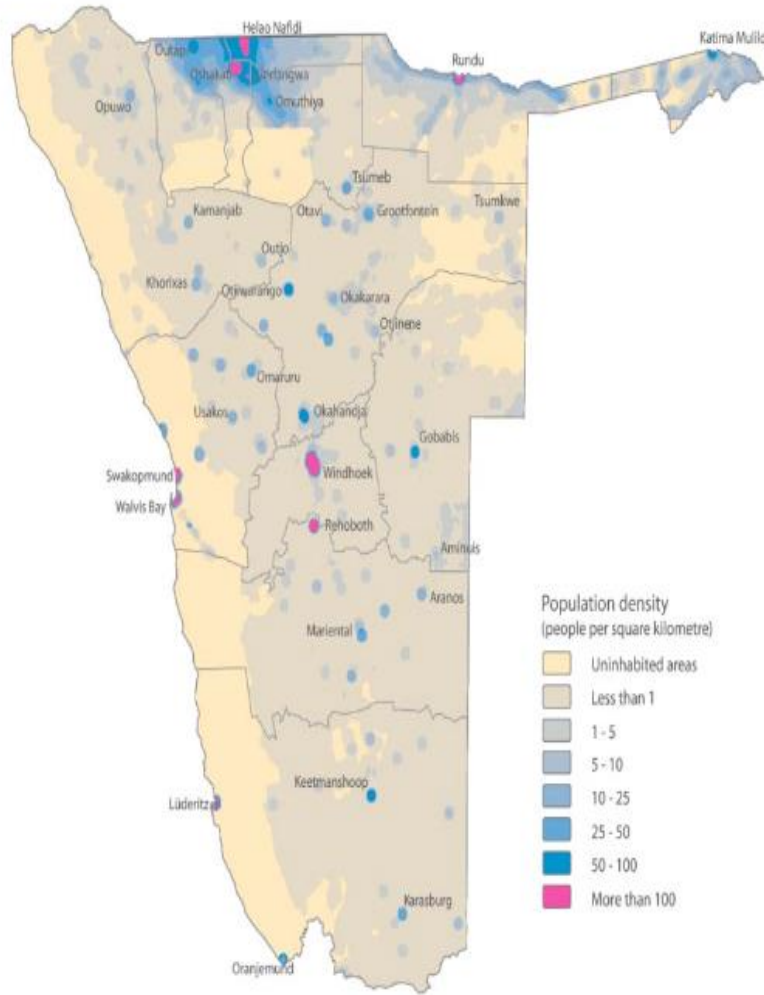
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# Namibia at a Glance



<b>Location</b>	Southern Africa – bordered by Angola, Botswana, South Africa, Zambia
<b>Population</b>	3.1 million (2024); <i>female 51.3% Male 48.8% Elderly 60+-6.8% Children (0-14) 37% Working Age 56.1%</i>
<b>Geography</b>	14 regions; surface area of 824,292 km <sup>2</sup> , 3.7 persons per km <sup>2</sup> , second least densely populated country in the world
<b>Poverty Progress</b>	Poverty reduced from 69.3% (1993/94) to 17.4% (2015/16)
<b>Economic Snapshot</b>	Lower-middle income status; GDP growth ~3.7% (2024); high unemployment (36.9%)
<b>Vulnerable Groups</b>	Women, female-headed households, youth, persons with disabilities and marginalized communities
<b>Social Protection Investment</b>	2.7% of GDP (mostly on social assistance)
<b>Triple Crisis Challenges</b>	Fuel Crisis ( <b><i>higher electricity, fuel, and cooking energy costs affect poor households the most</i></b> ) Food Crisis ( <b><i>food price increases; affected rural poor and children most</i></b> ) Finance Crisis ( <b><i>limited tax base and competing priorities stretched public finances</i></b> )

# Trends in Poverty, Inequality, Policy Responses & SP

Period	Poverty Statistics	Government Policy Focus	Social Protection / Safety Net Direction
<b>1990–1999</b> <i>(Post-independence)</i>	Poverty rate at <b>69.3%</b> & Gini Coefficient <b>0.70%</b> (1993/94 NHIES); high rural poverty and inequality	Focused on basic service delivery and national reconciliation; early poverty reduction efforts through <b>Poverty Reduction Strategy for Namibia PRS (1998)</b> , <b>White Paper on Labour-Based Works (1999)</b>	Introduction of <b>Labour Intensive Work Programme</b> pilot (1990); expanded in 1992. Grants such as <b>old-age pensions</b> began to play a stabilizing role. Introduction of School Feeding Programme
<b>2000–2005</b>	Poverty rate at <b>37.7%</b> & Gini Coefficient <b>0.60%</b> (2003/04 NHIES); ; Almost halve poverty rate.	<b>National Poverty Reduction Action Programme (2001–2005)</b> prioritised employment, access to services, and safety nets	Consolidation of grant-based programmes into 3: (1) Basic State Grant, (2) Disability & Blindness Pension, (3) Child Grants - Strengthening of <b>Labour-Based Works</b> programmes - Emphasis on <b>community-based welfare teams</b> and social workers as frontliners.
<b>2006–2014</b>	Poverty rate at <b>28.7%</b> & Gini Coefficient <b>0.58%</b> (2009/10 NHIES); ; Gradual reduction in poverty; rural/urban disparities persisted	Sectors focus strategies Shift toward <b>decentralised development planning</b> and community participation	Continued delivery of basic social grants; expanding <b>social worker coverage</b> ; income-generating support scaled in regions. Subsidies of education- Free Primary Education (2013)

# Trends in Poverty, Inequality, Policy Responses & SP

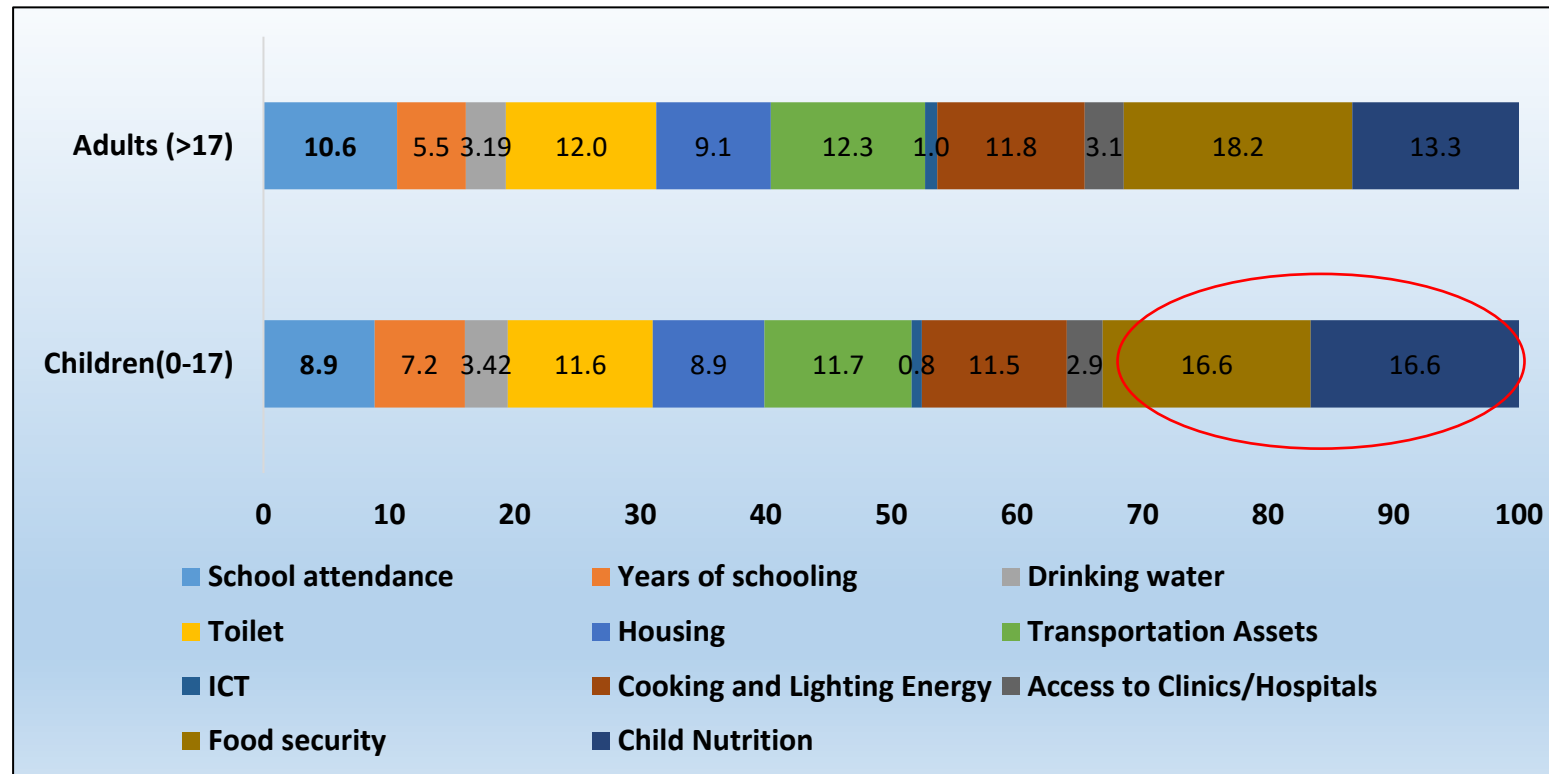
Period	Poverty Statistics	Government Policy Focus	Social Protection / Safety Net Direction
2015–2020	Poverty rate at <b>17.4%</b> & Gini Coefficient <b>0.56%</b> (2015/16 NHIES); inequality remains high (Gini ~0.59)	BluePrint on Wealth Redistribution and Poverty Eradication Policy (2017/18-2019/20)	Social assistance gradual scaled up; Targeted programs for <b>marginalised communities</b> (food, education, housing, OAG, child grants, disability grants and Introduced Food Bank Programme.
2021–2025	Poverty fell to <b>17.4%</b> in 2015/16 NHIES; <b>rural poverty 25.1%, urban 8.6%</b> ; inequality improved (Gini ~0.56)	Social Protection Policy (2021-2030) <b>Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)</b> for 2021 (using 2015/16 data)	Progress made towards lifecycle approach , digitalization and management of grants Coordination mechanism establish; National Social Protection Core-Team

# Root causes of poverty and inequality

The key **drivers of poverty and inequality** include:

- Inadequate & lack of access to services (education, clean water, housing, health)
- High unemployment
- Low education attainment
- Regional disparities

## Major Drivers of Multidimensional Poverty



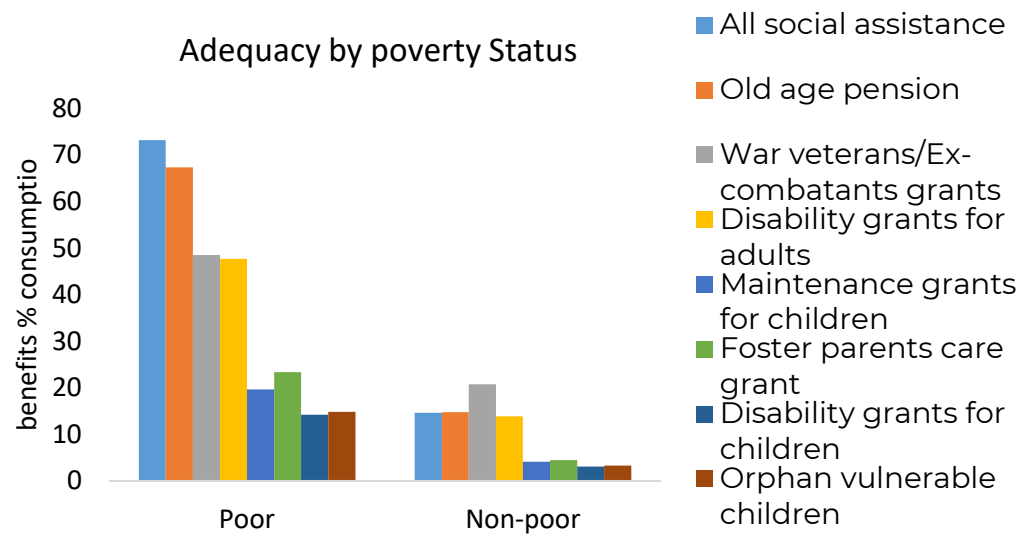
# Brief overview of Namibia' Social Protection

## Social Assistance

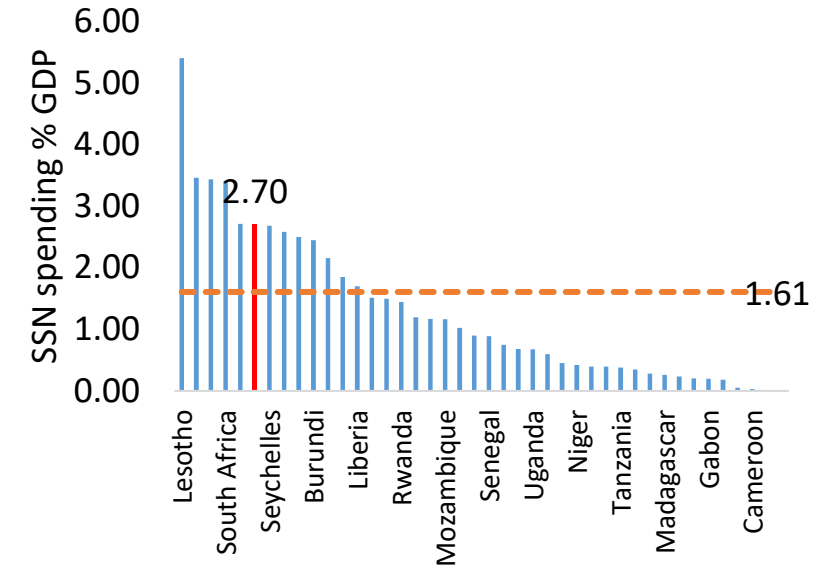
## Social Insurance

Cash Transfers	In-kind Assistance	Social Care Services	Community Based Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maternity, Sick Leave and Death Benefit Fund</li> <li>Employees Compensation Fund</li> <li>Motor Vehicle Accident Fund</li> <li>Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF)</li> <li>Public Service Employees Medical Aid Scheme (PSEMAS)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child grants</li> <li>Old age grant (OAG)</li> <li>Disability grants</li> <li>Conditional Basic Income grant</li> <li>Veterans Subventions grant</li> <li>Veterans Improvement Grant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Namibian School Feeding Programme (NSFP)</li> <li>Drought Relief Programme</li> <li>National Resettlement Programme</li> <li>OAG funeral grant</li> <li>Veterans funeral grant</li> <li>Disability related Support</li> <li>Income Generating Activities (IGAs)</li> <li>Veterans Funeral Service</li> <li>Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund Loan Programme</li> <li>Livelihoods programmes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential Child Care Facilities for Children</li> <li>Places of Safety</li> <li>ECD-Educarers Allowance Scheme.</li> <li>Low cost housing schemes</li> <li>Housing Units for Independent Low-Income Older</li> <li>Free and/or Subsidized Health Care Services</li> <li>Provision of Legal Aid Programme</li> <li>Family Strengthening Programme</li> </ul>	Marginalized Communities programs Community Forest program	
			Public Works	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food/Cash for Work</li> <li>Rural Sanitation</li> <li>Rural Development Centres</li> <li>Micro-Finance Scheme</li> </ul>	
			Subsidies/Fee waivers	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health care &amp; Education</li> <li>Basic food</li> </ul>	

**Labour Market Policies and Interventions:** Minimum wages Apprenticeship, entrepreneurship and internship programme



- **High Coverage, But Uneven Benefit Distribution:** Social assistance covers **73.2%** of poor household consumption. **OAG** alone contributes **67.4%** while, **Children receive less generous support**, contributing only up to **23.4%** of poor household consumption



**Social assistance programs could be better targeted**

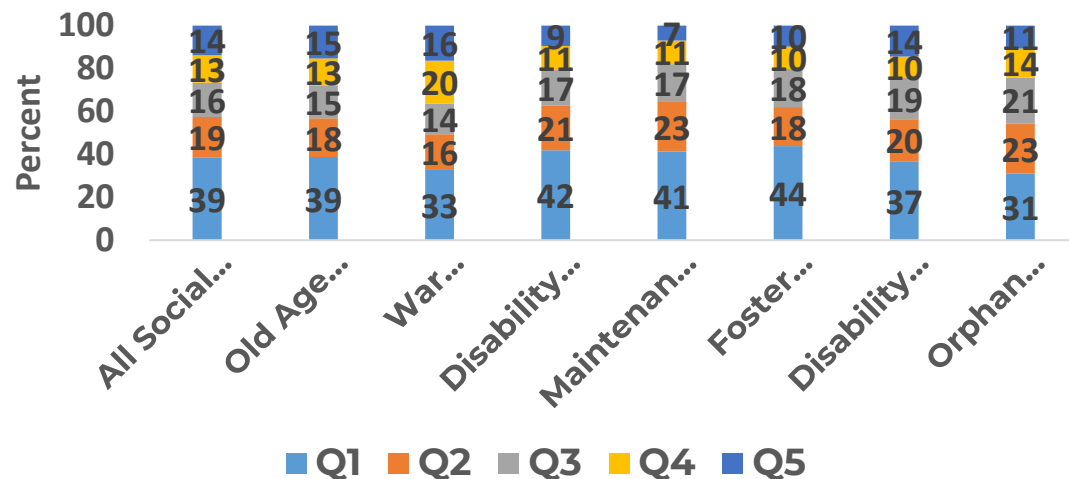
Households in the poorest quintile make up the largest share of beneficiaries of targeted programs; however, households in wealthier quintiles account for a significant share of beneficiaries of all programs.

**Strong Government Commitment**

- Namibia invests **2.7% of GDP** in social assistance
- Spending is **fully government-funded**
- Investment level is **nearly double the Sub-Saharan Africa average**

**Distribution of Social Assistance Benefits by Quintile (Targeting Based on Pre-Transfer Income)**

**Direct and Indirect Beneficiaries**





# Institutional advances on the social protection agendas

## **Developed a Social Protection Policy (2021–2030)**

- ❖ First Step to unified SP
- ❖ Step towards a Comprehensive Social Protection Systems

## **Progress towards Digitalization**

- ❖ Development of the Integrated Social Assistance System (ISAS)
- ❖ Linking with external databases such as the National Population Register

## **Progress on Cross-Sectoral Coordination**

- ❖ Establishment of the Social Protection Core Team (SPCT).
- ❖ Developed Sector reporting tools

## **Progress on access to Information**

Developed and rolled out a Social Protection Programmes Booklet to raise awareness and improve access.

# Existing Challenges for Social Programmes in Namibia

Fragmentation and Inadequate Coordination

Paper based registration , limited digitalized and Integrated Management Information System across SP programmes

Lack of Identity documents for some potential beneficiaries

Inadequate Coverage and Adequacy of Social Protection



**THANK YOU**