



COUNTRY PROFILE



Namibian orphans and vulnerable children like these receive meals and tutoring from the USAID-funded Multi-Purpose Center in Walvis Bay, which provides support to people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

OVERVIEW

In its first 16 years of independence, Namibia has made impressive progress establishing a free, viable nation. Few other countries in Africa invest as much in the education and health of their people; the press is one of the most free; and it has one of the highest “business competitiveness” rankings and one of the lowest levels of corruption. However, Namibia is confronted by two formidable challenges: controlling one of the world’s worst AIDS



epidemics and correcting the world’s worst income disparity that leaves far too many in poverty. To help Namibia overcome these challenges, USAID has provided over \$208 million between FY 1991 through FY 2006. The Agency’s assistance spans the “ABCDE’s” of development:

- AIDS and tuberculosis (TB) prevention, care, and treatment
- Basic education
- Community-based natural resource management
- Democracy and governance
- Employment creation/Enterprise development

PROGRAMS

PREVENTING, CARING FOR, AND TREATING AIDS AND TB

To respond to one of the worst HIV/AIDS epidemics and the highest TB case rate in the world, the United States is providing \$42.8 million in 2005 through the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. USAID’s programs focus on providing care and services to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), reducing the spread of HIV through prevention activities, and supporting Namibia’s national TB program. USAID programs provided home-based care to 20,330 people and services to 25,000 OVC. 29,742 clients received counseling and testing at 12 centers, and five hospitals provided antiretroviral treatment and services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

IMPROVING BASIC EDUCATION

A recent regional education report indicated that only a third of Namibia’s sixth grade students had acquired needed reading and math skills. USAID is helping Namibia improve the quality of English, math, and science instruction for students in grades 1-7 by training 4,000 teachers in new teaching methods. School improvement programs piloted by USAID were

NAMIBIA SNAPSHOT

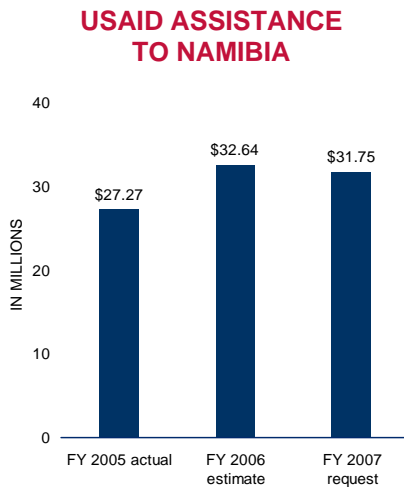
Date of independence: 1990
Population: 2 million (2004)
Income per person: \$2,370 (yr)
Source: World Bank Development Indicators

USAID IN NAMIBIA

www.usaid.org/na



COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED



For more information, see the
FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

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so successful that the Namibian government decided to expand them nationwide. To address the problems in the education sector caused by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, USAID provided educational support to 5,000 orphans and vulnerable children while training 1,400 principals and education administrators on HIV/AIDS mitigation strategies.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT WHILE HELPING COMMUNITIES

More than 70 percent of Namibians, many living in poverty, reside in rural areas and depend upon natural resources for their livelihoods. USAID helps establish protected areas called conservancies and works with residents to develop business plans that generate income while conserving wildlife and resources. USAID also works at the national level to support the coordination and integration of national policies and laws governing natural resources. The number of conservancies in Namibia has increased from four to 42 and has led to the creation of an additional 3,800 full and part-time jobs. Approximately 10.5 million hectares are under conservancy management, and wildlife numbers, such as elephant and other species, are increasing. At the same time, financial benefits to participants have increased to approximately \$2.65 million.

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

As one of the youngest democracies in Africa, Namibia's democratic institutions and processes need to be strengthened and Namibians have yet to fully utilize all the political processes available to them. USAID provides training to help Members of Parliament improve their constituency outreach, especially in underserved rural areas, and helps Namibians across the country participate in democratic processes. USAID also provides grants and technical assistance to civic groups and community-based media organizations to enable them to advocate around local issues. It is now easier for Namibians to communicate with their elected officials and two-thirds of the bills introduced in Parliament received public comment. Training has helped create more transparent legislation, and vigorous debate has increased in both houses of Parliament.

IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND INCOMES

Namibia's relatively high per capita GDP of \$2,370 masks severe poverty as Namibia has the highest income inequality in the world. To promote job creation and economic growth, USAID provides training and assistance to small and medium-sized businesses to improve their regional competitiveness. To help build private sector capacity, USAID facilitated over 285 business links between large and small firms and strengthened the business skills of over 7,000 Namibian entrepreneurs.