



*Republic of Namibia*

**MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY, 2012 – 2019.**

**DIRECTORATE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
FEBRUARY 2020**

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

CDCs	Community Development Centers
CYB	Credit for Youth in Business
IGA	Income Generating Activities
LADCs	Local Authorities Development Committees
MGECW	Ministry of Gender Equality & Child Welfare
MHAI	Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration
MICT	Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology
MITSMED	Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development
MLIREC	Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation
MLR	Ministry of Land Reform
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
MoEAC	Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture
MoHETI	Ministry of Higher Education, Training & innovation
MPESW	Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MSYNS	Ministry of Sports, Youth & National Service
MURD	Ministry of Urban and Rural Development
NDP5	National Development Plan 5
NHIES	National Housing Income and Expenditure Survey
NIDS	Namibia Inter-Censal Demographic Survey
NLFS	National Labour Force Survey
NSA	Namibia Statistics Agency
NTA	Namibia Training Authority
O/M/As	Offices, Ministries, Agencies
OROI	One Region One Initiative

RDCCs	Regional Development Constituency Committees
RDCs	Rural Development Centres
SDCs	Settlement Development Committees
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small Medium Enterprise
TVET	Technical Vocational Education Training
TVET	Technical Education Vocational Education
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
VDCs	Village Development Committees

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD) after widespread consultation with stakeholders and upon approval by Cabinet launched the National Rural Development Policy and Strategy in 2012. Since then, the Ministry together with various stakeholders has been implementing programmes and projects in rural areas in line with the National Rural Development Policy and Strategy. The implementation of the Policy and Strategy has been monitored through bi-annual Rural Development Focal Persons Forum meetings and Annual Rural Development Planning and Progress Review Workshops.

The review of the Policy and Strategy was deemed necessary and the Ministry therefore, initiated the process. MURD established a Review Committee comprising of members from various Offices, Ministries and Agencies (O/M/As). The Committee held its first meeting at Ongwediva Rural Development Centre in June 2019 to set the ground for the review process. The meeting assessed the relevance of challenges, objectives and strategies outlined in the Policy and identified emerging issues. Furthermore, MURD was directed by NPC to carry out an evaluation of the implementation of the Policy and Strategy. This was done by assessing the implementation of Rural Development interventions outlined in the Strategy.

MURD consulted various rural development stakeholders to gather information on the implementation of Rural Development interventions. This report presents findings on the implementation of Rural Development interventions by various stakeholders for the period (2013 -2018) of the Rural Development Strategy.

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY**

The overall objective of the policy is to ensure a systematic, integrated and coordinated planning and implementation of development in rural areas in order to improve the livelihood of people living in rural communities.

The Policy has four specific objectives which are to:

1. Ensure participation of all role players in the formulation, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development plans.
2. Develop diversified, competent and highly productive human resources and institutions in rural areas, fully utilizing human potentials and achieving efficient and effective delivery of customer focused services.
3. Accelerate a broad –based rural industrialization and economic growth through enhanced rural infrastructure development, research and appropriate technology development, income generation and employment creation.

4. Ensure the sustainable management and development of natural resources found in Namibia's rural areas and its sustainable utilization for the benefit of the country's social, economic and ecological well-being.

### **3. STRATEGIC APPROACHES TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

The policy identified the following strategic approaches in effort to address the rural development:

- Coordination and integration of rural development action
  - Development of needs assessment and integrated planning
  - Institutional rearrangement and capacity development
  - Resources mobilization and reallocation
  - Collaborative implementation
  - Joint monitoring and evaluation
- People's empowerment and civic participation
  - Training and skills development
  - Community participation and ownership
- Rural infrastructure and services development
  - Roads network and transport logistics
  - Telecommunication network
  - Rural electrification
  - Rural housing scheme
  - Rural industrial development
  - Rural development centre
  - Rural product markets
  - Rural sanitation services
- Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources
- Social welfare services
  - Health
  - Education
  - Security services
  - Sport and recreation
  - Social safety nets
- Support to rural agriculture
  - Marketing agricultural produce (storage and preservation of agricultural produce)
  - Vulnerability assessment and early warning
  - Human wildlife conflict management
  - Modernization of agricultural and agri-industrial system (appropriate technological development)
  - Increase in the efficiency in agriculture production and agric-food system
  - Compensation allowances and subsidies
  - Agric-environmental management
- Sustainable rural economic development
  - Economic diversification and value addition



- Employment creation

#### 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY

Table 1 tabulates the performance of the thematic areas of the Policy and the respective indicators for measuring the realization of the set targets.

*Table 1: Thematic areas for the implementation of the Policy*

Objective	Thematic areas	Measurable indicators	Responsible OMA's
Ensure participation of all role players in the formulation, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development plans	Strengthen and harmonise Policy and Legal Frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Policy and Legal frameworks developed/amended</li> <li>• Number of land ownership by women in rural areas.</li> </ul>	MURD, MLR, MAWF, NSA
	Regional and Spatial Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of rural spatial development plans developed</li> <li>• Number of settlements declared,</li> </ul>	MURD, MLR
Develop diversified, competent and highly productive human resources and institutions in rural areas, fully utilizing human potentials and achieving efficient and effective delivery of customer focused services	Literacy rate in Rural Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy rate for adults</li> <li>• Youth literacy rate</li> </ul>	MEAC NSA
	Improved education efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net enrolment ratio in rural areas</li> <li>• Proportion of pupils starting Grade 1 who reach Grade 7</li> <li>• Survival rate Grade 8</li> </ul>	MEAC
	Vocational Education and Training (VET)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of high school VET graduates.</li> </ul>	MHETI NTA
	Child mortality and maternal health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural under-five mortality rate</li> <li>• Rural infant mortality rate</li> <li>• Maternal mortality rate</li> <li>• % of birth attendance by trained health personnel in rural areas</li> </ul>	MoHSS, NSA, MHAI

	HIV infections and access to ARVs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIV prevalence in rural areas</li> </ul>	MoHSS, NSA
	Gender equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ratio of girls to boys in primary, general secondary education</li> <li>• Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural/agricultural sector</li> </ul>	MoEAC MLIREC NSA
	Crime statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violent offenses (Number in rural area per 100 000 rural population)</li> <li>• Property-related offenses (number in rural areas per year 100 000 rural population)</li> </ul>	MoSS, MGECW
Accelerate a broad-based rural industrialization and economic growth through enhanced rural infrastructure development, research and appropriate technology development, income generation and employment creation.	Poverty reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of households below Namibian poverty line in rural areas</li> <li>• % of household in extreme poverty in rural areas</li> </ul>	NPC NSA MPESW
	Hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevalence of stunting (height for age) under five in rural areas</li> <li>• Prevalence of wasting (weight for age) under 5 in rural areas</li> </ul>	MoHSS
	Employment creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural unemployment rate (broad) (%)</li> <li>• Rural people who take active steps to find employment but fail to do so (Strict) (%)</li> </ul>	NPC NSA MLIREC
	Access to electricity, internet and cellphones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of rural households connected to electricity</li> <li>• Internet users (per 100 000 rural people)</li> <li>• % of rural households with (access to) cellphones</li> </ul>	MME NamPower MICT Telecommunication companies NSA
	Access to drinking water and improved sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of rural population with access to safe/portable water.</li> </ul>	MURD MAWF NAMWATER

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of the rural population with access to improved sanitation facilities</li> </ul>	NSA MoHSS
	Provision of basic rural sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of toilets constructed in rural areas</li> </ul>	RCs MURD MAWF MoHSS
	Non-agricultural production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of operational rural enterprises</li> <li>• Annual production increase in rural SME sample</li> <li>• Annual employment increase in rural SME sample</li> <li>• Annual increase in profits in rural SME sample</li> </ul>	MITSMED NCCI
	Economic development in rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of sustainable rural development initiatives supported</li> </ul>	MITSMED MGECW RCs MURD
	RDC construction and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Rural Development Centres that are completed</li> <li>• Number of Rural Development Centres being supported with management services</li> </ul>	MITSMED MGECW MURD RCs
	Housing and migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of rural houses constructed (Build together/ Shack dwellers)</li> <li>• Number of housing units constructed at workplaces in rural areas</li> <li>• Percentage of rural-urban migration</li> </ul>	NHE MURD All GRN institutions with duty stations in rural areas
Ensure the sustainable management and development of natural resources found in Namibia's rural	Agricultural productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage Value added Agriculture GDP</li> <li>• Productivity of mahangu in communal area (Kg/Ha)</li> <li>• Annual livestock production value index</li> </ul>	MAWF Farmers Unions NSA

areas and its sustainable utilization for the benefit of the country's social, economic and ecological well-being.		(communal and commercial areas)	
	Environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas under sustainable natural resources management</li> <li>• Number and quality employment (gainful) created in community tourism</li> <li>• Number of community conservancies established</li> <li>• Percentage progress made to reduce human/wildlife conflicts/incidences</li> </ul>	MET NACSO Namibia Wildlife & Tourism Board

### **Strengthen and harmonise Policy and Legal Frameworks**

This approach has two indicators, namely: Number of Policy and Legal frameworks developed/amended, and, Number of land ownership by women in rural areas. MURD and Ministry of Land Reform have the overall mandate over these indicators. However, so far, there haven't been any new legal frameworks developed in terms of rural development. Following the review of this current policy, a new Strategy will be developed.

Through rural development forums such as the Rural Development Focal Persons Forum and Annual Progress Review and Planning workshops, the Ministry managed to bring various rural development stakeholders together to steer coordinated rural development planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of rural development initiatives. Although the Ministry is the custodian of rural development coordination, Rural Services divisions are established in each RCs to ensure grassroots levels participation in rural development. Participatory planning and development structure in the regions is realized through development committees such as RDCCs, CDCs, SDCs, VDCs and LADCs.

### **Regional and Spatial Planning**

Spatial planning is considered as an effective instrument for regional planning and coordination. There are two indicators under this approach, namely: Number of rural spatial development plans developed, and Number of settlements declared, which are a responsibility of RCs and MURD. The Ministry has recently passed the Urban Planning Bill, with the aim of establishing long-term spatial development plans at all national and regional levels. The bill was necessitated by the fact that proclamation of areas is cumbersome and happens with minimum consultations. This bill will lead to proper decision-making, and shorter processes.

### **Literacy rate in Rural Areas**

Literacy in rural areas is considered as an effective tool for transformation of ideas, and behavioural change. The welfare schemes, developmental programmes and people's participation on public issues are only effective in a literate environment. Two indicators are used to track literacy rate, namely: Literacy rate for adults, and, Youth literacy rate. The mandate lies within the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC).

### **Improved education efficiency**

The policy has identified education as one of the important social services. Education has the potential to improve the quality of lives of rural people. Education efficiency is tracked with three indicators: Net enrolment ratio in rural areas, Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 7, and, Survival rate grade 8.

### **Vocational Education and Training**

TVET (Technical Vocational Education Training) is viewed as a tool for productivity enhancement and poverty reduction in the country. It is the responsibility of Ministry of Higher Education, Training & Innovation (MHETI) together with the Namibia Training Authority (NTA). It is tracked through the Percentage of high school (VET) graduates. NDP5 highlighted that the labour market could not absorb new entrants since 2012 mainly because the economy could not create innovative industries, and therefore, it experienced a cycle of low skills and few employment opportunities.

### **Child mortality and maternal health**

The health sector has been identified as a priority by Government, because improving the delivery of its services is seen as fundamental for improving the quality of life in rural areas. There are several indicators under this approach, including Rural under-five mortality rate, Rural infant mortality rate, Maternal mortality rate, and, Percentage of birth attendance by trained health personnel in rural areas. The data is collected by Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), as well as Namibia Statistics agency (NSA).

### **HIV infections and access to ARVs**

Just like in other developing countries, HIV is very common amongst the Namibian population, and ranks very high in the northern regions. The indicator for this approach is HIV prevalence rate in rural areas, a responsibility of MoHSS.

### **Gender Equality**

Women play an important role in the rural economy, therefore, empowering rural women can have a significant impact on decision making and productivity. Gender equality is measured with two indicators: Ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary education, and, Share of women in wage

employment in the non-agricultural sector. This information is collected by the MoEAC, Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation (MLIREC) and NSA.

### **Crime Statistics**

Namibia has a high rate of violence, and criminal activities are on the rise. These are escalated by poverty, high unemployment rate, and huge socio-economic disparities among the communities. Crime statistics is collected by the Ministry of Safety and Security (MoSS) on two indicators,: Number of violent offenses in rural areas (per year per 100 000 rural population), and Number of property related offences in rural areas (per year per 100 000 rural population).

### **Poverty Reduction**

Poverty is still a worldwide concern which is dominant in developing countries and their governments are still making efforts to fight poverty. Namibia as a developing country also recognise the challenges of poverty in rural areas through the Policy which advocates for significant improvement of living standard. Two indicators to track poverty are: Percentage of households below Namibian poverty line in rural areas, and Percentage of households in extreme poverty in rural areas. Both indicators are the responsibility of the National Planning Commission (NPC) and the NSA.

### **Hunger**

Over half of the 1.3 billion people in the world, are identified to be poor, including some 663 million children under the age of 18 (UN Poverty report, 2019). This means children bear the greatest burden. Hunger is measured by the MoHSS, through two indicators: Prevalence of stunting under five year and Prevalence of wasting under five years in rural areas.

### **Employment Creation**

Namibia has recorded an increase of unemployment over the past years that are mainly in rural areas. According to NSA Labour Statistics of 2018, overall rural unemployment stands at 33.5%. Namibia has a Policy on rural development that aims at promoting rural employment, especially among the youth, vulnerable groups and women. The Policy helps them to acquire necessary skills to access the labour market or be self - reliant. Rural unemployment rate and Percentage of rural people who take active steps to find employment but fail to do so, are the two indicators used by the MLIREC, NPC and NSA for this approach.

### **Access to electricity, internet and cellphones**

Access to basic utilities such as electricity and ICT is essential for competitive business in a globalised environment. The policy promotes the need to improve the communication networks in rural areas to enhance the flow of information. Indicators used in this approach are: Percentage of rural

households connected to electricity, Number of internet users per 100 rural people, and, Percentage of rural households with access to cellphones. The responsible stakeholders are Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology (MICT), Telecommunication companies, Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), NSA as well as NamPower.

### **Access to drinking water and improved sanitation**

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation is essential for quality of life and dignity of the people. The sustainable development goals (SDGs) require nations to ensure the supply of adequate safe water for all. Improvement in water supply and sanitation has shown substantial influence on reduced water borne diseases. It is the responsibility of Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry (MAWF), MURD, and NamWater to collect data on Percentage of rural population with access to safe /potable water, and Percentage of the rural population with access to improved sanitation facilities.

### **Provision of Basic Rural Sanitation**

In Namibia, dry sanitation is the main system used in the rural areas. MURD through RCs, and MAWF are responsible for Rural Sanitation. Under this approach there is only one indicator, which is the Number of toilets constructed in rural areas.

### **Non-Agricultural Production**

SMEs play a vital role in income-generation and employment creation, which are vital for rural development. The National Policy on MSME is there to support SMEs through programmes and interventions aimed at developing SMEs. There are several indicators under this theme which are: Number of Operational rural enterprises, Annual production increase in rural SME sample, Annual employment increase in rural SME sample, and, Annual increase in profits in rural SME sample. They are all under the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade, & SME Development (MITSMED) as well as the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI).

### **Economic Development in Rural Areas**

Rural business plays a vital role in the economic development of rural areas. Besides the Microfinance programme under the MURD, other stakeholders also plays a role in supporting economic activities in rural areas. These are: MITSMED through Equipment Aid, MGECW through Income Generating Activities (IGAs), Ministry of Sports, Youth and National Service (MSYNS) through Credit for Youth in Business (CYB). Number of sustainable rural development initiatives supported is the sole indicator for this approach, and is a combined effort from MITSMED, MURD, Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGECW), and RCs.

### **RDC construction and management**

Rural Development Centres were established with a purpose of promoting the development of appropriate technologies that enhance agricultural production, as well other economic activities in rural areas. There are three (3) existing RDCs namely; Ben-Hur in Omaheke region, Okashana in Oshikoto region and Ongwediva in Oshana region. The two indicators for this approaches are: Number of Rural Development Centres that are completed, and, Number of Rural Development Centres being supported with management services. The custodian for this approaches are MURD, MITSMED, MGECW, and RCs.

### **Housing and Migration**

Housing is one of the major priorities in Namibia. However, Housing Policy does not address housing issues in rural areas, as the construction of houses only take place in proclaimed urban settlements. Number of rural houses constructed, Number of housing units constructed at workplaces in rural areas, and Percentage of Urban/Rural migration, are the indicators for this approach. The stakeholders responsible are National Housing Enterprise (NHE), MURD, as well as all Government institutions having workplaces in rural areas.

### **Agricultural Productivity**

Agriculture is considered an integral part of the Namibian economy. Primary agricultural products include livestock and meat products, crop farming and forestry. Percentage of Value added agriculture GDP, Productivity of mahangu in communal area (kg/Ha), and, Annual livestock production value index in communal and commercial areas, are the indicators used to measure agricultural productivity. The custodians for these indicators were MAWF, and Farmers Unions.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Environmental sustainability is one of the pillars of NDP5. Namibia is endowed with abundant natural resources such as wildlife, fisheries, forestry, minerals as well as a solar and wind resources that are suitable for renewable energy. Natural resource-based sectors are among the largest contributors to GDP and they employ more than 30 percent of the country's workforce. There are a number of stakeholders working towards environmental sustainability, including NACSO, Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), Namibia Wildlife and Tourism Board. The indicators under this approach were: Areas under sustainable natural resources management, Number and quality employment created in community tourism, Number of community conservancies established, and, Percentage progress made to reduce human/wildlife conflicts/incidences.



## 5. OUTCOMES OF THE POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the Rural Development Policy can be tracked by evaluating the performance of the following thematic areas:

### 5.1 Poverty Reduction

According to the Namibia Statistic Agency (NSA), 2016, the percentage of households below the Namibia poverty line in rural areas was at 27.2% in 2012 and it has reduced to 18% in 2016( NSA,(b)2016). The percentage of household in extreme poverty has also reduced from 13.6% in 2012 to 10.9% in 2016. Although there has been a reduction in rural poverty in Namibia, there are still some households heavily affected by extreme poverty. Furthermore there is so much developmental disparity among the geo-political and administrative regions. The 2015/16 incidence of poverty records high poverty in rural areas than urban and about 25.1% rural households are still poor compared to 8.6 of urban households, whereas 15.9 were found severely poor compared to 4.8 in urban areas. By 2015/16, Kunene, Kavango East, Zambezi and Omaheke experience high level of poverty above the National average of 10.7%.

Namibia uses absolute poverty line, which is based on the cost of the basic needs approach. Three poverty lines were established by NSA measured in monetary terms. The first one is household having N\$293.00 per month for food, classified as being in extreme poor, the second poverty line is for severely poor which is set at N\$389.00 per household per month and the third one referred to poor, set at N\$ 520.00 per household per month.

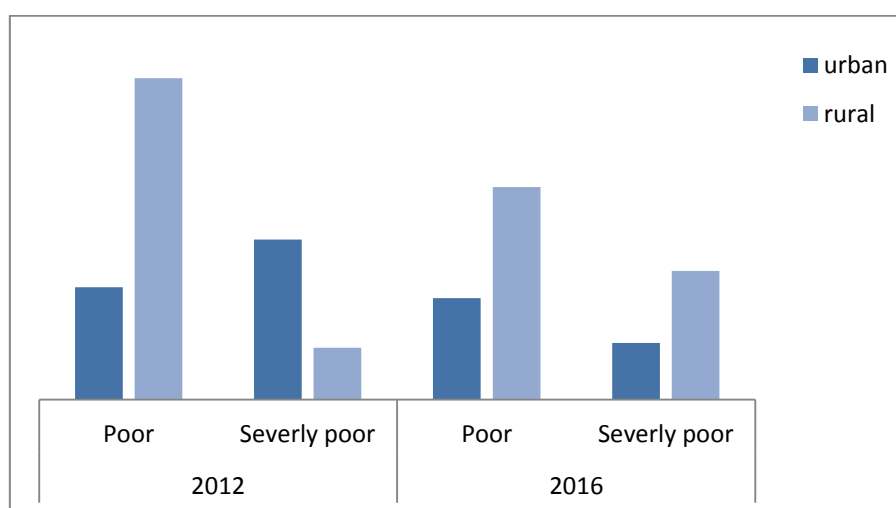


Figure 1: Poverty rates

### 5.2 Hunger

Namibia recorded a declining trend of hunger over the years since 2006. According to NDHS of 2013, the prevalence of Stunting improved from 29 % in 2006 to 24% in 2013. It was further reported that male (27%) children had higher prevalence of stunting compared to female (21%), and the

prevalence was dominant in rural areas (28%) as opposed to urban (17%). Equally, the prevalence of Wasting also declined at national level from 9% in 2000 to 6% in 2013. Similar to Stunting male (9%) children had a higher prevalence of Wasting than female (4%) and the prevalence was dominant in rural areas (7%).

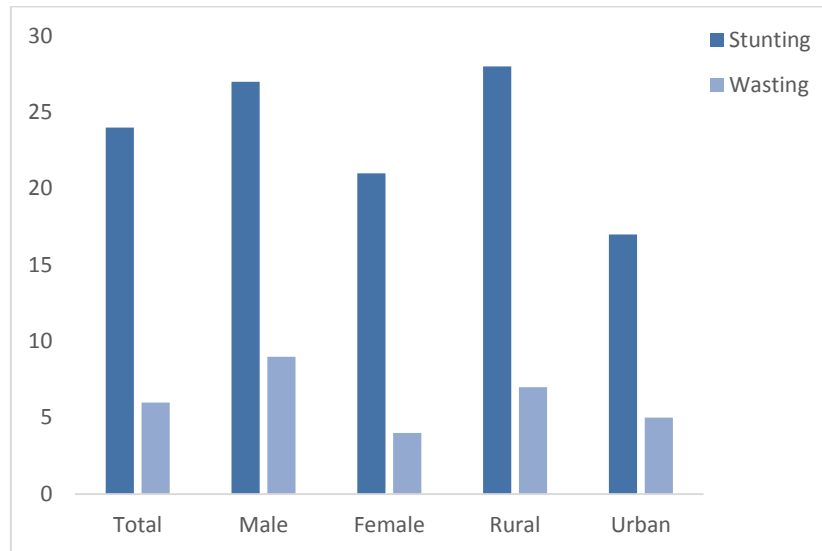


Figure 2: Prevalence of Stunting and Wasting (NDHS 2013)

### 5.3 Employment Creation

Findings from NSA, labour force survey (LFS) of 2018 reported that the overall broad unemployment rate for Namibia was 33%, which was indicated a slight decrease of 0.6% compared to 34% in 2016 (NSA, 2018). Urban unemployment has increase by 3.1 percent while rural unemployment has decreased by 5.7 percent. Similarly, the result further shows that in 2018, unemployment rate was higher amongst females (34%) as compared to their male counterparts (33%). Overall youth unemployment rate increased from 43% in 2016 to 46% in 2018. Additionally female youth experience a higher unemployment rate (48.5%) compare to their male counterparts (43.7%). It was also reported that almost half (49%) of the unemployed youth were residing in rural areas compare to almost two quarter (44%) in urban areas. Strick unemployment in Namibia was reported to be 20%, with male (21%) and female (19%) reported to be unemployed. Unlike broad unemployment that was high in rural areas, strict unemployment was high in urban (23%) compared to only 14% in rural areas (NSA, 2018)

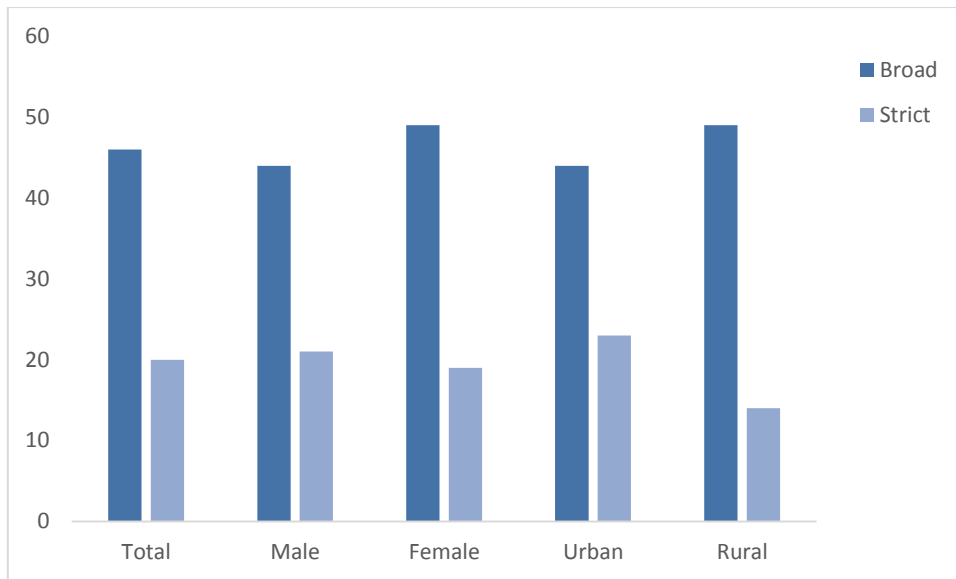


Figure 3: Broad and Strict unemployment

#### 5.4 Literacy rate in Rural Areas

Generally literacy in Namibia has increased by 13% since independence from 76% (1991) to 89% (2016) (NSA (a), 2016). According to the Namibia SDG Baseline report of 2019 more male (89%) were literate compared to female (88%), equally important literate rate was high in urban (94%) than rural (83%) (NSA, 2019). Youth literacy rate in Namibia was reported at 94.88 % in 2015, according to the World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially recognized sources.

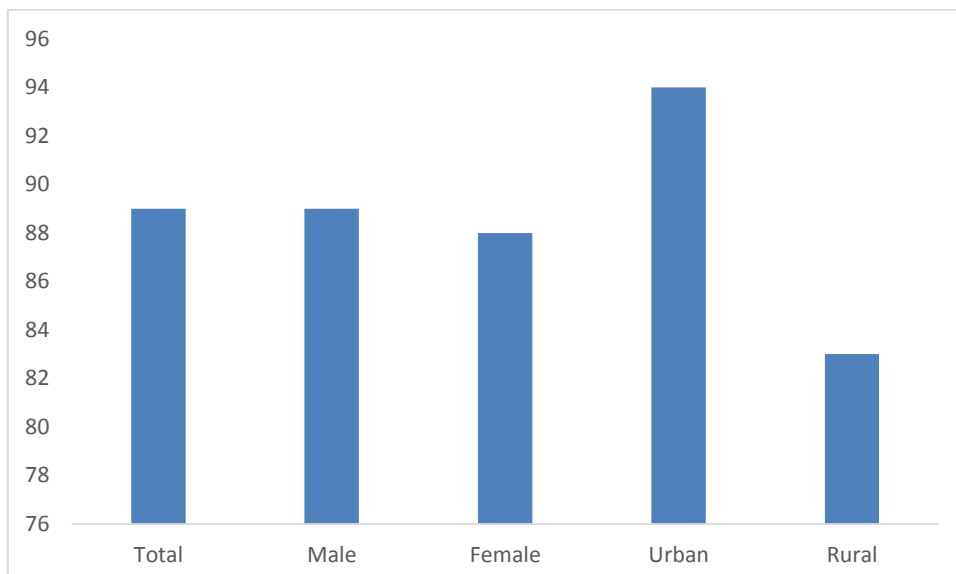


Figure 4: Literacy rate in rural Namibia (NIDS 2016)

## 5.5 Improved education efficiency

Poverty remains one of the most significant barriers to education for children from poorest households, as most of them are likely to be out of school. The distance to schools was also reported as another factor hampering rural education. According to statistics from UNESCO Institute of Statistics, the total survival rate for Namibia children for 2017 was 84%, with more female children (87%) reported to be reaching grade 8 as compared to 81% of males also reaching (UNESCO, 2017). UNESCO further reported that the net enrolments for the year 2017/18 for pre-primary, primary and secondary were 33%, 97% and 23% respectively.

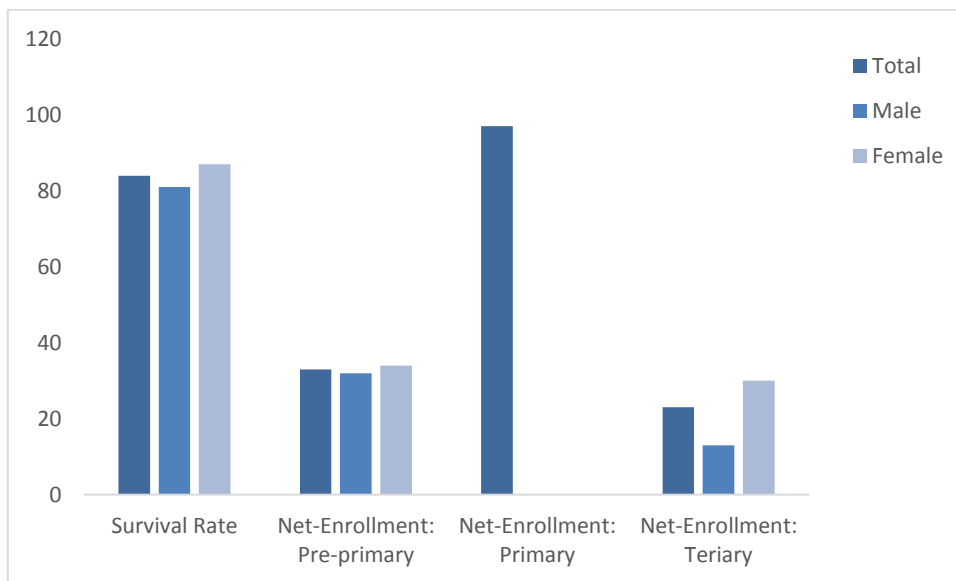


Figure 5: Education survival rate

## 5.6 Vocational Education and Training

According to statistics from the MHETI, 2019, the number of TVET increased with 27% between 2015 and 2018. The number increased from 25137 in 2015 to 32120. Similar the number of graduate also increased drastically with 132% during the same period. Despite the drastic increase in graduates, the number still rank behind in comparison to the enrollment.

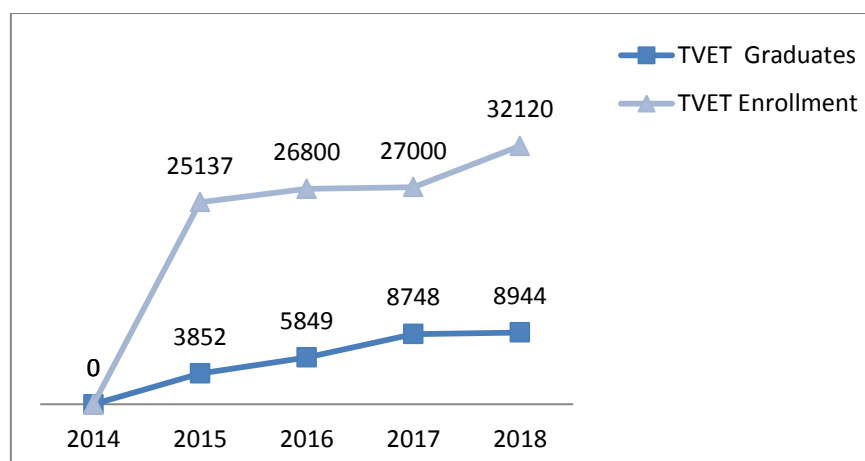


Figure 6: Vocation Education and Training

### 5.7 Child mortality and maternal health

The NDHS report of 2013 reported that maternal mortality in Namibia has declined from 449 in 2006 to 385 deaths per 100 000 live birth in 2013 (MoHSS, 2014). It further reported that under five mortality declined from 69 in 2006 to 64 death per 1000 live births. While Infant mortality also declined from 46 deaths in 2006 to 39 deaths in 2013. Data from NDHS further indicated that Infant and under-5 mortality were higher in rural areas than in urban areas. For instance, infant mortality in rural areas was 46 deaths per 1,000 live births, as compared with 35 deaths per 1,000 live births in urban areas (MoHSS, 2014).

Table 2: Maternal ,Infant and Under five mortality in Namibia (NDHS,2013)

	Total	Urban	Rural
Maternal Mortality	385	-	-
Infant Mortality	39	35	46
Children Mortality	69	54	64

### 5.8 HIV infections and access to ARVs

Results from NAMPHIA study in Namibia revealed that HIV incidence has declined since 2004 from 14% 1000 to an estimated of only 4% 1000 in 2017. Data from Namibia National HIV Sentinel Survey of 2016 revealed that about 17% of women in rural areas were HIV positive and that 67% women were already on ART (MoHSS, 2016). Findings from NAMPHIA study of 2018 reported that about 96% of the People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in Namibia were on ART, with 95% and 97% of male and female as PLHIV

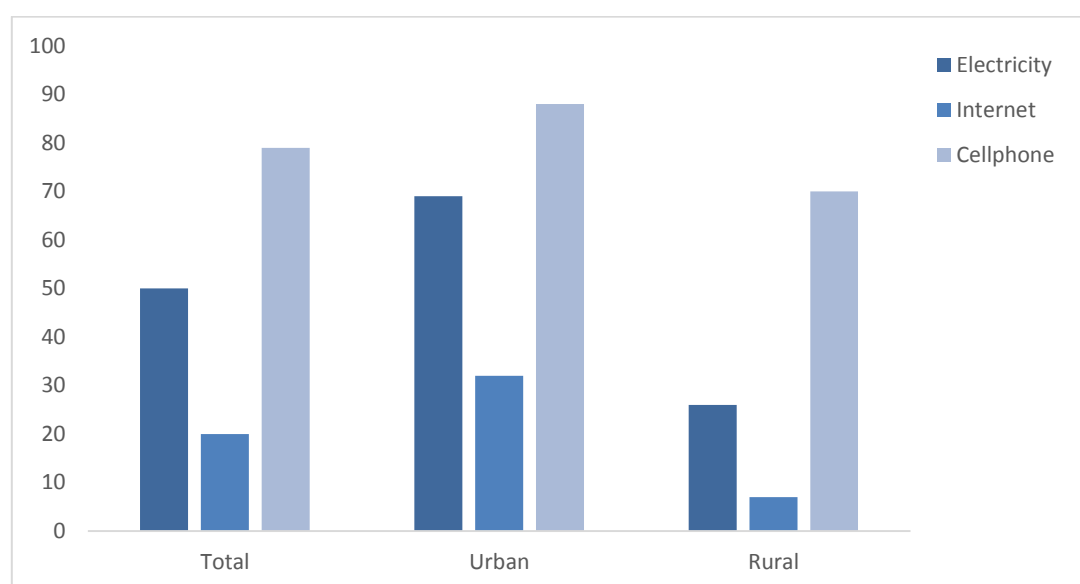
respectively. UNAIDS country fact sheet, also indicated that 78% of the Namibian children between the age of 0 and 14 were on ART (UNAID, 2018). One can conclude that the reduction in the prevalence and increase on ART adherence in Namibia can be commended to the national multispectral HIV and AIDS responses like the Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC), the provision of Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) to about 90% of patients tested positive for HIV, Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT), Pre (and Post) Exposure Prophylaxis (PreP).

*Table 3: HIV and ART status (2016/18).*

<b>HIV and ART indicators</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
HIV prevalence rate of pregnant woman in rural areas	17%
Percentage of HIV positive women who were already on ART in rural areas	66%
Total proportion of PLHIV who are on ART	96%
Proportion of male who living with HIV who are on ART	95%
Proportion of female who living with HIV who are on ART	97%
Proportion of children aged 0 to 14 receiving ART	78%

### **5.9 Access to electricity, internet and cellphones**

While there has been an improvement in all three utilities especially in the usage of cell phones, some rural areas still do not have access to electricity. According to NIDS reports of 2016 access to electricity for lighting has increase from 45% to 50% between 2011 and 2016 respectively (NSA (a), 2016). It further indicated that access to electricity was more in urban (69%) than rural (26%) areas. About 79% of the Namibian population own a cellphone, with 88% this owners reside in urban areas, while 70% resides in rural areas. Furthermore 20% of the Namibian have used internet three (3) months before the survey, with only 7% of the users being in rural areas and 32% in urban areas (NIDS (a), 2016).



*Figure 7: Access to electricity ,internet and cellphone*

### 5.10 Access to drinking water and improved sanitation

Access to safe drinking in rural area water has increased from 63% in 2011 to 85% in 2016 (NSA (a), 2016). So as access to sanitation in rural areas from 11% in 2011 to 13% in 2016. Namibia is still fighting to curd poor sanitation with about 46% of the population currently practicing open defecation.

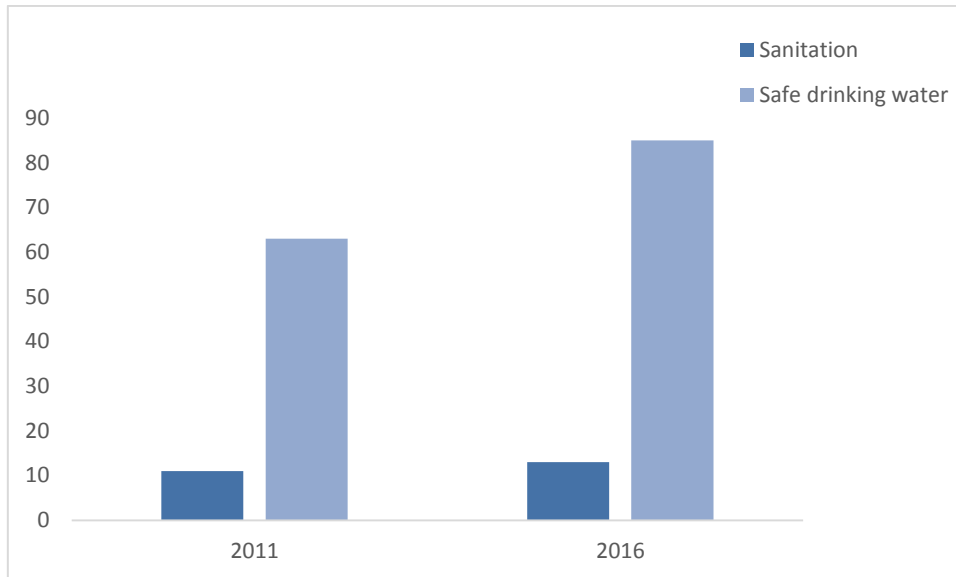


Figure 8: Access to drinking water and sanitation

### 5.11 Gender Equality

According to Education Information System (EMIS) report of 2017, the ration of gilrs to boys in the Namibia schools was 49% for the primary school and 52% for the secondary schools.

Table 4: Ratio of girls to boys in school.

Ratio of girls to boy in school:	Percentage
Primary	49%
Secondary	52%



**Figure 10** Gender equality

### 5.12 Crime Statistics

There is a challenge when it comes to statistics on these offenses, as many reports are just citing national statistics, and not as per urban and rural area distributions. However, it was reported that crimes in Namibia amounted to 90 675 cases in 2010/11.

It is believed that one of the interventions to address the issue of crime is the introduction of the Neighbourhood Watch, which is a community based crime prevention program that aims at reducing the incidence of preventable crime such as burglary and theft as well as promoting closer community ties. The program educates residents on security and safety and the reporting of suspicious incidents to the Police.

### 5.13 Agricultural Productivity

The World Bank report of 2018 highlighted that the value added in the agricultural sector as percent of GDP for Namibia was 7.2%. Additionally, results from National accounts produced by NSA in 2018, indicated that percentage share to GDP of livestock, crop farming and fish was 2.4%, 2.1% and 2.6% respectively (NSA, 2018). Furthermore livestock production index was 83% while the estimated productivity of Mahangu in communal area (Kg/ha) for 2018 was 83 500 tons (Agronomic Board Annual Report of 2017/18 and FAO, 2018).

Challenges in the agricultural sector includes erratic weather conditions like poor rainfall, recurring droughts and occasional floods in some parts of the country, over-reliance on livestock farming, lack of agricultural diversification, lack of access to agricultural technology, lack of funding, and a general skills deficit in the agricultural sector. It would be ideal if the stakeholders can come together to formulate strategies on how to increase agricultural productivity.



Table 5: Agriculture Productivity (NSA 2018, FAO 2018, WB 2018, Agronomic Board 2018):

<b>Agricultural Productivity indicators</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Value added in the agricultural sector as percent of GDP	7%
Estimated Mahangu Productivity in tons	83 500 (t)
Livestock production index	84%
Percentage share to GDP of activity current price: Fish	3%
Percentage share to GDP of activity current price: livestock	2%
Percentage share to GDP of activity current price: crop farming	2%

### 5.14 Non-Agricultural Production

Seemingly there is a growth in the number of SMEs in the country. Although the information is not provided as per rural and urban for business registrations, table 5 below show that a total of 34553 business were registered. Of these 2223 were companies, 12830 were sole proprietorship and 19500 were close corporations. Rural businesses are hampered by various challenges, including lack of coordination, lack of awareness, lack of business skills, long distances, and poor access to markets. Lack of access to financial services, access to land, crime, access to technology, as well as competition in the markets are some of the additional challenges.

Table 6: Company Registrations

<b>Period</b>	<b>Companies</b>	<b>Defensive Names/Sole proprietorship</b>	<b>Closed corporations</b>	<b>Total Registrations</b>
2011 -2012	835	8 312	6 379	15 526
2017 -2018	1 388	4 518	13 121	19 027
<b>Total</b>	<b>2223</b>	<b>12830</b>	<b>19500</b>	<b>34553</b>

### 5.15 Environmental Sustainability

According to MET, conservancies have increased from 66 in 2012 to 82 in 2016, covering over 54 percent of the communal lands. Community conservation generated approximately N\$91.2 million for local communities and has facilitated the creation of 5,808 jobs in 2014, benefiting about 170,000 local community members.

Some of the challenges in this regard are fragmented legislative frameworks and weak coordination between institutions responsible for the management of natural resources, inadequate resources, human wildlife conflicts and insufficient value addition.

### 5.16 Strengthen and harmonise Policy and Legal Frameworks

Attempts have been made to mainstream marginalised communities into the economy. NSA reported that from 2002-2018, a total of 192 females have been allocated resettlement farms, in comparison to 236 males.

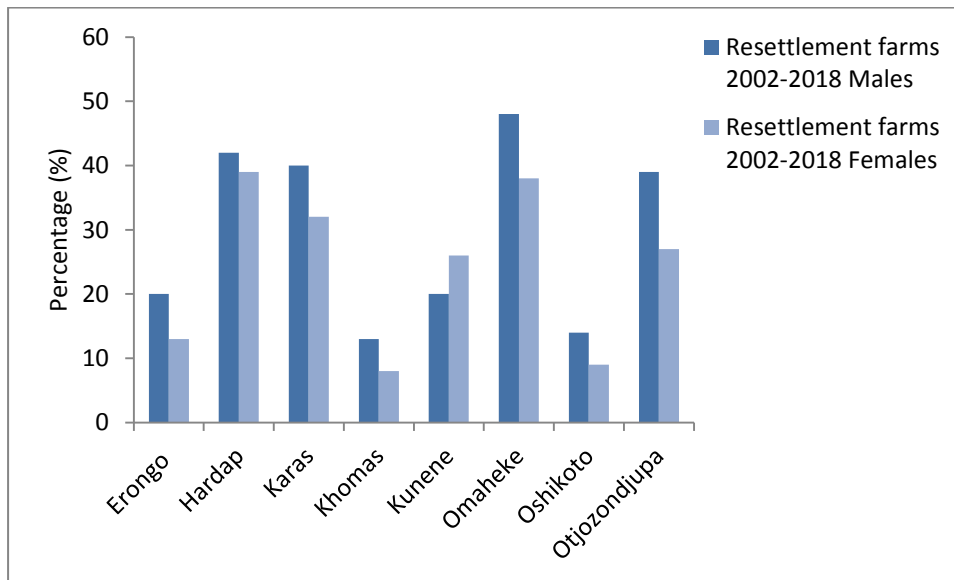


Figure 9: Allocation of resettlement farms

The lack of a Rural Development Act is hampering the successful coordination of the rural sector, since everyone is doing what is in their own guidelines and the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development has not much control over it.

It would be ideal if we can have all sectoral policies aligned to the main Rural Development policy. There is also a need for a harmonised land statistics database.

### 5.17 Provision of Basic Rural Sanitation

The NDP 4 report states that at the end of the Plan, a total of 6021 toilets were built in rural areas, making up a total of 70 583 toilets constructed nationwide, outlined as a baseline in the MURD Strategic Plan 2017/18-2021/22. A total number of 18 086 households were sensitised on open defecation. By the end of 2018, the population practicing open defecation decreased from 52% to 25%.

Some of the challenges in this area include the slow pace of implementation of sanitation projects, poor coordination, lack of accountability, insufficient awareness on the importance of sanitation and its benefits. Other issues that posed challenges include floods, especially in the northern regions, and Hepatitis E breakout. The ultimate goal is the elimination of open defecation in Namibia. Coordination amongst stakeholders needs to be strengthened, and awareness on sanitation should continue to be promoted.

### **5.18 Economic Development in Rural Areas**

Businesses located in rural areas endure low economic activity because they are small and unregistered. Manufacturing in rural areas is hampered by constraints including inadequate skills, poor access to markets and lack of access to finances. It would be ideal to provide more training to upgrade the skills of the people. Financial institutions need to be established in rural areas to enable businesses to access funds. Coordination and harmonisation of programmes also needs to be strengthened in order to avoid duplication of efforts, as well as to reach a wider range of projects.

### **5.19 RDC construction and management**

Seven additional RDCs are in the process of being established namely: Alpha in Kunene Region, Embaxu in Ohangwena Region, Gibeon in Hardap, Masokotwane in Zambezi Region, Ogongo in Omusati Region, Rupara in Kavango West and Snyfontein in //Karas Region. Amongst these, three (3) have been prioritised (Embaxu, Rupara, Masokotwane) and are nearly completed. Challenges in the implementation of the RDCs construction are mainly due to inadequate funding, and non-adherence to contractual obligations by some contractors, which is resulting in a slow pace of implementation.

### **5.20 Housing and Migration**

There is a need to incorporate rural housing into the housing policies/guidelines. The lack of access to services in rural areas is the driving force behind rural urban migration. Most of the migrants, propelled by easier access to services in urban areas, end up in the informal settlements, where households are poor and food insecure. The visible signs of this trend are among others the mushrooming of informal settlements at the outskirts of towns.

### **5.21 Regional and Spatial Planning**

Spatial planning is considered an effective instrument for regional planning and coordination. The Ministry has recently passed the Urban Planning Bill, with the aim of establishing long-term spatial development plans at all national and regional level. The bill was necessitated by the fact that proclamation of areas is cumbersome and happens with minimum consultations. This bill will lead to proper decision-making and shorter processes. Currently there are about 45 settlements proclaimed.

## **6. CHALLENGES**

When the Policy was formulated, a number of challenges were identified to be hampering rural development, and are still valid. The challenges are as follows:

- Weak planning and monitoring systems
- Poor coordination of rural development interventions
- Limited access to development funding
- Insufficient infrastructure facilities and services provision
- Slow pace of Decentralization implementation process
- High level of poverty in rural areas
- High production costs
- High level of unemployment and unskilled labour force
- Rural-urban migration
- Limited capacity at Regional Council level
- Limited knowledge and skills on modern technologies
- Poor community participation and ownership in rural development interventions
- Poor statistical data
- Low level of agricultural technology and diversification
- Climate change and weak environmental management
- Cultural diversity

## **7. CONCLUSION**

There has been an improvement in most of the policy objectives and strategic themes with significant results in some areas. Extreme poverty and hunger is still being experienced in marginalised groups, and female-headed households in some of the regions. Agricultural productivity has dropped due to various reasons, pushing people further into hunger and poverty.

Technical vocational education shows a significant improvement in the enrolment as well as in the number of graduates; however the graduate's life after school is hampered by lack of support to start entrepreneurship and lack of financial support. Access to cellphones and access to safe drinking water also shows a noticeable improvement although there is still an outcry from some of parts the country.

The strategic themes that shows a slight improvement are; employment creation, child mortality and maternal health. Ministries, through rural development initiatives, have created short and long term self-employment; however there is still a need to increase investment in rural employment on the part of public and private sectors alike.

Although child mortality and maternal health reduced slightly, rural areas still experience incidences of child mortality and maternal health due to shortage of human resources at clinics, outreach services and lack of information.

Other thematic areas that have improved a little are access to electricity, access to internet and access to improved sanitation.

Improved education efficiency dropped with 8% in the proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary (grade 7).

In a nutshell, poverty remains one of the barriers affecting the living standard of rural people. Furthermore, the challenges faced by rural Namibia has resulted in overlapping activities that lack harmonised guidance, improved coordination and consultations among the services providers.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The policy evaluation and review is necessary to analyse the performance and introduce improvements. Emphasis should be made in the following areas:

- Coordination and integration of rural development planning;
- Harmonization of sectoral policies;
- Capacity building at national and regional level;
- Joint monitoring and Evaluation;
- Increased development funding from the government and the private sector; and
- Rural infrastructure development through integrated planning.

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