



Namibia Statistics Agency



NHIES Summary - June 2012



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PREFACE

Namibia's 21 years of independence has brought many achievements to the people of Namibia. The Government in its endeavor to develop and uplift the standard of living of the citizens has adopted planning as a tool to achieve aspired goals. Monitoring and evaluation of these goals is an integral part of planning, thus the Government is investing in development of statistics.

The Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2009/2010 is one such statistical product and the third of its kind. Similar earlier surveys were conducted in 1993/1994 and 2003/2004 respectively. The demand for data and desire to intensify monitoring and evaluation of national development goals, including international commitments such as Millennium Development Goals, resulted in the shortening of the interval for conducting such budget surveys. The survey interval was reduced from ten to a period of five year. The international recommendation is that these kinds of surveys should be conducted at a shorter interval of at least three years. Namibia like any other developing country faces many challenges to meet this recommendation, hence five years is still thought to be reasonable enough for the country's purposes.

The Household Income and Expenditure Survey is a survey collecting data on income, consumption and expenditure patterns of households, in accordance with methodological principles of statistical enquiries, which are linked to demographic and socio-economic characteristics of households. A Household Income and Expenditure Survey is the sole source of information on expenditure, consumption and income patterns of households, which is used to calculate poverty and income distribution indicators. It also serves as a statistical infrastructure for the compilation of the national basket of goods used to measure changes in price levels. Furthermore, it is used for updating of the national accounts.

The purposes of the Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2009/2010 are among others:

- To contribute to research and development of knowledge based economy in order to reduce poverty and income inequalities;
- To monitor and evaluate development processes and output/outcomes (development performance audit);
- To provide statistical infrastructure for the production of other statistics;
- To provide information for the determination of poverty lines and production of poverty profiles.

It is evident that the above objectives will be met through the publication of NHIES 2009/2010 Basic Report. The results of the survey show improvements in many areas of development, including reduction in poverty, although inequalities are still very high. A detailed comparative poverty report will be produced in the immediate future. Efforts are also being made to remove identifiers in a public dataset, which will enhance the use of the collected data for researchers, planners and academicians.

It is our belief that the survey results offer policy makers a wide range of policy options and improve the data availability in the country. The full value of the collected data and understanding of the cost incurred will only be meaningful if this data is transformed into information and ultimately into policies for the benefit of the Namibian people.

It is pleasing to note that the Government of the Republic of Namibia has funded this survey to the tune of close to N\$60 million Namibian Dollars with the support of other development partners such as UNDP and Grand Duchy of Luxemburg through Lux Development Cooperation. I would like to thank the staff, both permanent and contractual, for their valuable contribution to the success of this project. In the same vein I would like to thank the respondent households, the Government, the general public and the media. Last but not least, the short term consultants who provided technical assistance throughout the value-chain of this statistical production are also appreciated.



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Windhoek 2012

Chapter 1: Background and overview

The main objective of the NHIES 2009/2010 is to comprehensively describe the levels of living of Namibians using actual patterns of consumption and income, as well as a range of other socio-economic indicators based on collected data. This survey was designed to inform policy making at the international, national and regional levels within the context of the Fourth National Development Plan, in support of monitoring and evaluation of Vision 2030 and the Millennium Development Goals.

The NHIES was designed to provide policy decision making with reliable estimates at regional levels as well as to meet rural - urban disaggregation requirements. A representative sample of about ten thousand households was selected over a twelve months period consisting of 13 survey rounds.

Two questionnaires (Form 1 and Form 2) were administered to sampled households. While the data collection methodology of the NHIES 2003/2004 and 2009/2010 has remained basically the same, some additional questions were added to the questionnaire for NHIES 2009/2010 in response to users' own identified needs.

Box 1: Basic terms used in this report

Household: A household is a person or group of persons, related or unrelated, who live together in the same homestead/compound, but not necessarily in the same dwelling unit. They have a common catering arrangement and are answerable to the same head.

Head of household: The head of household is a person of either sex who is looked upon by other members of the household as their leader or main decision maker.

Poor households /population: The total number of households or proportion of population living below N\$377.96 per month.

Chapter 2: Demographic characteristics

There were an estimated 436 795 private households during the survey, with an estimated household population of 2 066 398. Most of the population and households lived in the rural areas 62 and 57% respectively. Khomas is the most populated region with 17% of the total population, and Omaheke the least populated with 3% of the population. The estimated average household size in Namibia is 4.7 persons. The national average household size has decreased from 5.7 persons in 1993/1994 and from 4.9 in 2003/2004. On average rural households are bigger than urban households, 5.2 compared to 4.1 persons per household respectively.

Namibia is generally a youthful nation with about 67% of the population under the age of 30 years and only 12% of the population over 50 years of age. The population in rural areas is younger than the population in urban areas with 54% of the population under 20 years of age compared to 42% in urban areas. It is estimated that around 23% of all the households in Namibia live with orphans.

Table 1: Household and Population by region and urban/rural areas

| Region | Households Number | % | Population Number | % | Average household size |
|--------------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|------------------------|
| Caprivi | 21 254 | 4.9 | 100 309 | 4.9 | 4.7 |
| Erongo | 39 221 | 9.0 | 138 139 | 6.7 | 3.5 |
| Hardap | 15 894 | 3.6 | 67 449 | 3.3 | 4.2 |
| Karas | 21 299 | 4.9 | 77 863 | 3.8 | 3.7 |
| Kavango | 43 889 | 10.0 | 283 815 | 13.7 | 6.5 |
| Khomas | 83 562 | 19.1 | 339 934 | 16.5 | 4.1 |
| Kunene | 17 096 | 3.9 | 74 628 | 3.6 | 4.4 |
| Ohangwena | 38 997 | 8.9 | 238 325 | 11.5 | 6.1 |
| Omaheke | 15 159 | 3.5 | 62 892 | 3.0 | 4.1 |
| Omusati | 45 161 | 10.3 | 235 417 | 11.4 | 5.2 |
| Oshana | 35 087 | 8.0 | 170 974 | 8.3 | 4.9 |
| Oshikoto | 32 038 | 7.3 | 161 665 | 7.8 | 5.0 |
| Otjozondjupa | 28 135 | 6.4 | 114 988 | 5.6 | 4.1 |
| Namibia | 436 795 | 100 | 2 066 398 | 100 | 4.7 |
| Urban | 188 981 | 43.3 | 783 561 | 37.9 | 4.1 |
| Rural | 247 813 | 56.7 | 1 282 837 | 62.1 | 5.2 |

Chapter 3: Education

Literate persons in the population aged 15 years and over are 88%, and those not literate are 12%. The difference in literacy rates between males and females at national level are insignificant. Since 2003/2004 literacy has increased from 83 to 88%.

Out of all persons aged 6 years and above 88% reported to have been to school while 12% have never been to school. Among those aged between 6 and 16 years, 9% reported that they have never been to school. In urban areas 7% of the children aged 6-16 reported that they have never been to school, while the proportion is 10% among rural children.

Table 2: Population aged 15+ by sex, literacy, region and urban/rural areas

| Region | Literacy | | | | | | | | | Population |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|------------------|
| | Female | | | Male | | | Both sexes | | | |
| | Literate | Not literate | Total | Literate | Not literate | Total | Literate | Not literate | Total | |
| Caprivi | 82.8 | 17.2 | 100 | 89.3 | 10.7 | 100 | 85.8 | 14.2 | 100 | 61 664 |
| Erongo | 97.5 | 2.5 | 100 | 96.0 | 4.0 | 100 | 96.7 | 3.3 | 100 | 98 191 |
| Hardap | 91.8 | 8.2 | 100 | 89.8 | 10.2 | 100 | 90.9 | 9.1 | 100 | 44 272 |
| Karas | 95.3 | 4.7 | 100 | 91.3 | 8.7 | 100 | 93.2 | 6.8 | 100 | 51 538 |
| Kavango | 76.1 | 23.9 | 100 | 86.7 | 13.3 | 100 | 80.9 | 19.1 | 100 | 162 643 |
| Khomas | 97.0 | 3.0 | 100 | 94.4 | 5.6 | 100 | 95.7 | 4.3 | 100 | 246 098 |
| Kunene | 64.5 | 35.5 | 100 | 71.6 | 28.4 | 100 | 67.9 | 32.1 | 100 | 46 057 |
| Ohangwena | 84.3 | 15.7 | 100 | 86.6 | 13.4 | 100 | 85.2 | 14.8 | 100 | 129 618 |
| Omaheke | 67.0 | 33.0 | 100 | 70.4 | 29.6 | 100 | 68.7 | 31.3 | 100 | 39 007 |
| Omusati | 87.5 | 12.5 | 100 | 89.9 | 10.1 | 100 | 88.5 | 11.5 | 100 | 140 499 |
| Oshana | 93.4 | 6.6 | 100 | 93.6 | 6.4 | 100 | 93.5 | 6.5 | 100 | 108 686 |
| Oshikoto | 89.0 | 11.0 | 100 | 84.2 | 15.8 | 100 | 87.0 | 13.0 | 100 | 95 983 |
| Otjozondjupa | 79.8 | 20.2 | 100 | 75.7 | 24.3 | 100 | 77.7 | 22.3 | 100 | 73 585 |
| Namibia | 87.1 | 12.9 | 100 | 88.4 | 11.6 | 100 | 87.7 | 12.3 | 100 | 1 297 840 |
| Urban | 95.6 | 4.4 | 100 | 95.3 | 4.7 | 100 | 95.5 | 4.5 | 100 | 542 029 |
| Rural | 81.3 | 18.7 | 100 | 83.1 | 16.9 | 100 | 82.1 | 17.9 | 100 | 755 811 |

It is estimated that 13% of the population aged 15 years and above have no formal education, 27% have primary education, 51% secondary education and 6% have attained tertiary education. There are great differences between urban and rural areas. The proportion of those who have no formal education is 19% in rural areas compared to 6% in urban areas. Levels of educational attainment in Namibia show an improvement over the last 15 years, especially in rural areas. The percentage of the population 15 years and above that have no formal education has decreased from 30% in 1993/1994 and 17% in 2003/2004 to 13% in 2009/2010, a decline by more than half from 1993/1994.

Chapter 4: Annual Labour Force

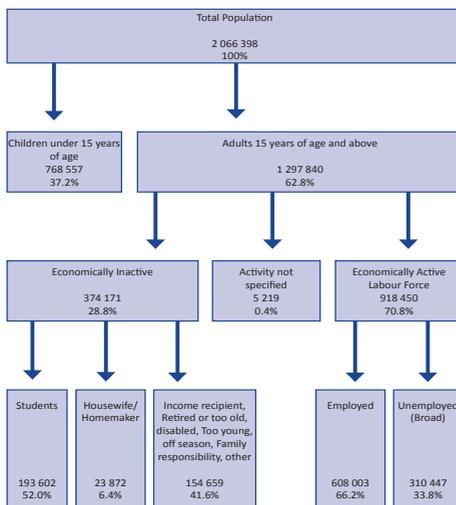
Data on labour force was collected at each survey round in NHIES 2009/2010 following the current activity concepts and definitions. It should be noted that the results reflect an average picture over 13 survey rounds, which is one complete year. This means that seasonality is covered over the year, which might give a lower unemployment rate than is normally presented by regular labour force surveys.

The unemployment rate is close to 34% in Namibia using the broad definition and 19% using strict definition. The labour force participation rate varies over regions, urban/rural areas and sex. In urban areas the rate for females is 76% and for males 81. In rural areas the rate is 63% for females and 68 for males. At regional level the rate ranges from 52% in Omusati to 82% in Erongo. In urban areas 30% are unemployed and in rural areas 37%. Almost 39% of females are unemployed compared to 29% of males. The rate is highest in Ohangwena and Omusati (62 and 54%) and lowest in Erongo and Oshikoto (around 22%).

The correlation between unemployment and highest level of educational attainment is considerable. Among persons with only primary level of education the unemployment rate is 34% whereas it is 9% for persons with tertiary education.

Most of the employed persons work as paid employees for a private employer (48%) and 16% work for government or state enterprises. The agriculture, fishery and hunting industry accounts for 29% of all employed persons. Among the economically inactive persons in Namibia (persons 15+ years outside the labour force) 52% are students and 26% are retired or too old to work.

Box 2: Population by activity status



Chapter 5: Main source of income

Households were asked for their main source of income from a list of 17 possible sources. Almost half of all households in Namibia reported salaries/wages as their main source of income. Subsistence farming is the main source of income for 23% of the households and pensions for 11%. There is a large difference between urban and rural households. In rural areas 40% reported subsistence farming as their main source of income, as compared to only 1% of urban households. On the other hand, 74% of urban households reported salaries/wages as their main source of income compared to 30 per cent of rural households.

The proportion of households with salaries and/or wages as the main source of income increase as education levels of the head of household increase while that of subsistence farming and pensions decreases as education levels of the head of household increase. At national level subsistence farming as the main source of income has decreased to 23% from 38% in 1993/1994 and 29% in 2003/2004.

Table 3: Household by main source of income, region and urban/rural areas

| Region | Main source of income, % | | | | | | | | Total | |
|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| | Salaries & wages | Subsistence farming | Commercial farming | Pension | Remittances/grants | Drought/in kind receipts | Business income | Others | % | Number |
| Caprivi | 34.4 | 24.3 | 0.0 | 14.8 | 4.6 | 1.1 | 17.5 | 3.3 | 100 | 21 254 |
| Erongo | 75.9 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 5.6 | 3.8 | 1.2 | 11.3 | 0.7 | 100 | 39 221 |
| Hardap | 59.8 | 6.4 | 3.1 | 13.6 | 7.5 | 1.5 | 5.3 | 2.8 | 100 | 15 894 |
| Karas | 70.1 | 2.1 | 2.6 | 11.7 | 5.6 | 1.9 | 5.3 | 0.7 | 100 | 21 299 |
| Kavango | 30.1 | 45.7 | 0.1 | 11.5 | 2.7 | 1.1 | 7.5 | 1.3 | 100 | 43 889 |
| Khomas | 76.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 2.7 | 4.7 | 0.6 | 13.9 | 1.2 | 100 | 83 562 |
| Kunene | 49.4 | 15.8 | 2.4 | 13.1 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 6.5 | 1.8 | 100 | 17 096 |
| Ohangwena | 19.6 | 48.6 | 0.0 | 19.6 | 5.2 | 1.3 | 5.1 | 0.5 | 100 | 38 997 |
| Omaheke | 53.3 | 11.8 | 1.9 | 16.9 | 5.2 | 2.3 | 7.4 | 1.3 | 100 | 15 159 |
| Omusati | 19.5 | 59.6 | 0.0 | 13.2 | 2.2 | 1.0 | 4.4 | 0.0 | 100 | 45 161 |
| Oshana | 42.8 | 23.5 | 0.0 | 13.8 | 5.3 | 1.4 | 12.7 | 0.4 | 100 | 35 087 |
| Oshikoto | 27.9 | 41.3 | 0.2 | 16.2 | 5.3 | 4.2 | 4.0 | 1.0 | 100 | 32 038 |
| Otjozondjupa | 69.1 | 4.7 | 1.2 | 9.8 | 6.0 | 2.7 | 5.6 | 0.9 | 100 | 28 135 |
| Namibia | 49.2 | 23.1 | 0.6 | 11.1 | 4.6 | 1.7 | 8.8 | 1.0 | 100 | 436 795 |
| Urban | 74.3 | 0.9 | 0.1 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 1.0 | 13.5 | 1.0 | 100 | 188 981 |
| Rural | 30.0 | 40.0 | 0.9 | 16.1 | 4.5 | 2.1 | 5.3 | 1.1 | 100 | 247 813 |

Chapter 6: Housing and utilities

The NHIES collected information on type of dwelling categorised as follows: traditional dwelling, detached house, semi-detached house, improvised house and flat as well as on type of tenure or ownership. Overall, 31% of households reported that they live in a traditional dwelling, compared to 44% in 2003/2004. Of all households 33% live in a detached house, 5% in a semi-detached house and 4% in a flat. These three categories together can be considered as modern housing and made up 42% of households' types in Namibia. In rural areas, 54% of households live in traditional dwellings compared to 2% in urban areas. At national level 24% of households live in improvised housing, which is an increase from 17% in 2003/2004. Improvised housing in urban areas has slightly increased from 27% in 2003/2004 to 30% in 2009/2010. The proportion has almost doubled in rural areas between 2003/2004 and 2009/2010.

Households were classified according to the type of tenure or ownership of the dwelling. The survey revealed that 73% of households reported that they own their dwellings. The proportions of households, which rent and occupy the dwelling for free, are 14 and 13% respectively. In rural areas 80% of households own their dwelling without a mortgage compared to 41% in urban areas. Households were classified according to the type of tenure or ownership of dwellings they occupy. 63% of all households own their dwellings with no mortgage while 10% owned with mortgage. About 14% of all households rent their dwellings.

Table 4: Household by type of dwelling, region and urban/rural areas

| Region | Type of dwelling, % | | | | | | | | Total | |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| | Detached house | Semi-detached house | Flat | Mobile home | Single quarters | Traditional dwelling | Improvised house | Others | % | Number |
| Caprivi | 12.2 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 55.8 | 16.9 | 10.7 | 100 | 21 254 |
| Erongo | 50.8 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 35.9 | 0.5 | 100 | 39 221 |
| Hardap | 49.3 | 3.5 | 5.6 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 39.8 | 0.9 | 100 | 15 894 |
| Karas | 49.1 | 6.2 | 6.8 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 0.3 | 33.2 | 2.4 | 100 | 21 299 |
| Kavango | 2.8 | 7.9 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 60.6 | 26.6 | 0.5 | 100 | 43 889 |
| Khomas | 49.4 | 4.9 | 7.8 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 35.1 | 1.5 | 100 | 83 562 |
| Kunene | 31.2 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 0.2 | 2.9 | 45.4 | 14.8 | 0.7 | 100 | 17 096 |
| Ohangwena | 6.3 | 0.6 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 88.0 | 2.6 | 1.1 | 100 | 38 997 |
| Omaheke | 35.6 | 3.3 | 1.5 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 7.1 | 51.7 | 0.7 | 100 | 15 159 |
| Omusati | 40.3 | 3.2 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 43.0 | 9.9 | 0.6 | 100 | 45 161 |
| Oshana | 25.4 | 4.3 | 6.2 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 49.7 | 12.9 | 0.7 | 100 | 35 087 |
| Oshikoto | 26.2 | 4.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 45.3 | 21.5 | 0.3 | 100 | 32 038 |
| Otjozondjupa | 36.5 | 16.9 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 8.1 | 11.2 | 16.0 | 7.0 | 100 | 28 135 |
| Namibia | 32.6 | 5.1 | 3.7 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 31.3 | 23.8 | 1.8 | 100 | 436 795 |
| Urban | 48.5 | 8.3 | 7.3 | 0.2 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 30.0 | 2.3 | 100 | 188 981 |
| Rural | 20.4 | 2.7 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 53.9 | 19.0 | 1.4 | 100 | 247 813 |

Only 32% of households use electricity for cooking, 42% for lighting and 21% for heating. Wood/wood charcoal is commonly used as a source of energy by 56% for cooking, 3% for lighting and 45% for heating. Candles is used by 38% households for lighting.

The survey also collected data on main source of drinking water. 84% of all households in Namibia have access to safe drinking water (75% piped water and 8% reported a borehole or protected well). 13% use stagnant water and 3% flowing water. A larger proportion of urban households, 99%, use piped water compared to rural households that accounted for 57 per cent.

In terms of sanitation, the survey reported that 40% of households use flush toilet, 10% use pit latrine, less than 1% use bucket toilet and 49% use bush/no toilet. A large proportion of urban households use flush toilet (78%), compared to rural households (10%).

The availability of modern toilet facilities has improved only modestly over the past years. The percentage of households using bush/no toilet has decreased slightly both in urban and rural since 2003/2004.

Chapter 7: Distance to services

A majority of households in Namibia or 72% reported that they are less than 1 kilometre to their source of drinking water. For 25% of the households the distance is 1-3 kilometres while the remaining 3% cover the distance of more than 3 kilometres. In urban areas, 94% of households have less than 1 kilometre to the source of drinking water and in rural areas 56%.

About 30% of households in Namibia reported that they have less than 2 kilometres to the nearest hospital or clinic, 7%, however, have more than 40 kilometres. For urban households, 93% are less than 6 kilometres from a health facility. The corresponding proportion of rural households is 46%.

The distance to the nearest primary school is less than 2 kilometres for 49% of households in Namibia. For about 8% of households in Namibia it is more than 20 kilometres. Among urban households, 71% are within 1 kilometre to a primary school compared to 31% of rural households. Out of all rural households 18% have more than 10 kilometres to the nearest primary school. In Omaheke, 42% have more than 10 kilometres to the nearest primary school and in Kunene 23% have more than 50 kilometres.

Chapter 8: Ownership and access to assets

In order to gauge changes in welfare status of households in terms of access to assets, the survey inquired on three broad categories of owning, not owning but have access and neither owning nor having access to assets.

The survey shows, that over 71% of households own a radio, 12% reported access to a radio, and 17% neither owned nor had access. Access to a radio is quite prevalent in urban areas where 77% of households own a radio compared to 68% in rural areas. The percentage of households owning a radio has increased from 65 to almost 72% since the NHIES 1993/1994.

Regarding the ownership of or access to television, 38% of households reported that they own a TV, 10% had access and 52% had no access. A higher percentage of urban households have access to TV, 68% compared to 15% of rural households.

Ownership of a telephone or cell phone has increased significantly since the NHIES 1993/1994 and 2003/2004. Then, it was 17 and 34% respectively. Now the percentage of households that own a cell phone is 79%. In urban areas 93% of households own a cell phone compared to 68% in rural areas.

Nearly half, 46%, of households reported that they own poultry, 38% own goats and 35% own cattle. More than half of the Namibian households owns or have access to grazing land while 50% owns or have access to field for crops.

Chapter 9: Annual consumption and income

The estimated total household consumption during the survey period was N\$28 544 million. The average annual consumption per household is N\$65 348 while the consumption per capita is N\$13 813. Annual consumption is significantly higher in urban areas. For example, while rural areas account for 57% of all households in the country, they only account for 35% of total consumption. Average consumption per capita is N\$7 841 in rural areas compared to N\$23 592 in urban areas, a factor of more than three times as high.

Female headed households constitute 42% of all households, but they only consume 30% of total consumption. Consequently, the average consumption in male headed households is N\$79 586 compared to N\$46 474 in female headed households. Similarly, consumption per capita in male headed households is N\$17 237 as compared to N\$9 462 in households headed by females. In other words, consumption per capita is 55% lower in female headed households compared to male headed households.

The NHIES results show that the total income in Namibian households over the survey period was N\$30 085 million. The average annual income per household is N\$68 878 and the per capita income is N\$14 559.

Household income varies greatly across language groups. Income per capita in households where Khoisan is the main language spoken, is N\$6 631 compared to N\$150 730 in households, where the main language is German. In other words, individuals in a German-speaking household on average have a level of income that is 23 times higher than individuals in a Khoisan-speaking household. However, it is a slight improvement from 2003/2004 when it was 31 times higher. In 2003/2004, Khoisan speaking households had the lowest income per capita in Namibia. In 2009/2010, Rukavango speaking households have the lowest per capita income in Namibia (N\$5 777), which is 26 times lower compared to German speaking households.

For comparison purposes the GINI coefficient for NHIES 2003/04 has been recalculated using a specialised software called Distributive Analysis STATA Package (DASP).

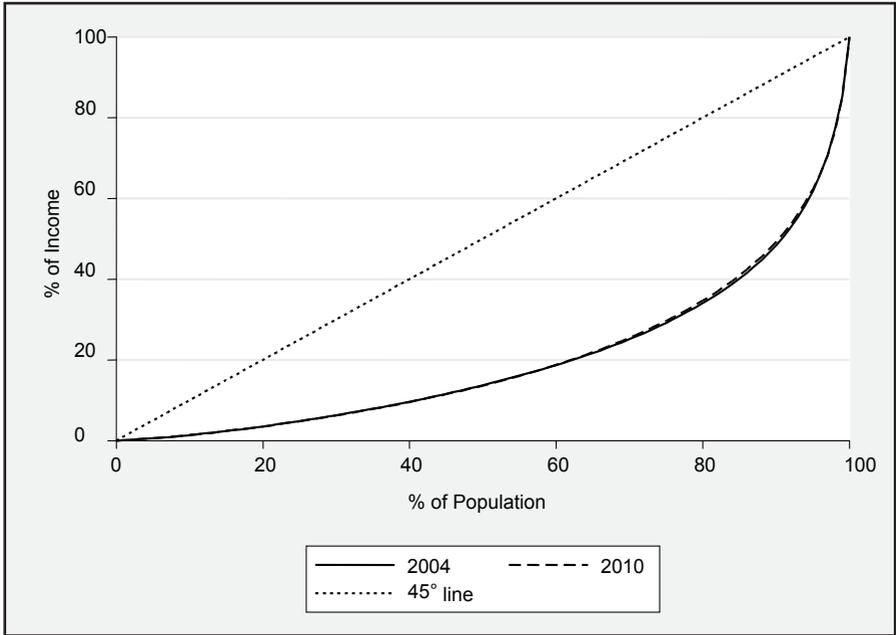
Table 5: annual household income by percentile group after adjusted per capita income.

| %ile group | Households | Population | Average household size | Total income | | Average household income | Income per capita | Adjusted per capita income |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Million N\$ | % | | | |
| Deciles | % | % | | Million N\$ | % | N\$ | N\$ | N\$ |
| %ile group | | | | | | | | |
| 1-25 | 25.0 | 35.6 | 6.7 | 2 177 | 7.2 | 19 938 | 2 957 | 3 535 |
| 26-50 | 25.0 | 26.7 | 5.1 | 3 415 | 11.4 | 31 320 | 6 186 | 7 251 |
| 51-75 | 25.0 | 21.1 | 4.0 | 5 480 | 18.2 | 50 168 | 12 555 | 14 242 |
| 76-90 | 15.0 | 10.6 | 3.3 | 6 168 | 20.5 | 94 230 | 28 264 | 31 448 |
| 91-95 | 5.0 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 3 922 | 13 | 177 978 | 58 824 | 64 628 |
| 96-98 | 3.0 | 1.7 | 2.7 | 3 880 | 12.9 | 297 071 | 110 506 | 119 800 |
| 99-100 | 2.0 | 1.1 | 2.5 | 5 044 | 16.8 | 573 092 | 230 616 | 253 138 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 4.7 | 30 085 | 100 | 68 878 | 14 559 | 16 895 |
| Deciles | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 10 | 15.9 | 7.5 | 686 | 2.3 | 15 701 | 2 085 | 2 497 |
| 2 | 10 | 13.5 | 6.4 | 949 | 3.2 | 21 734 | 3 412 | 4 080 |
| 3 | 10 | 12.3 | 5.8 | 1 136 | 3.8 | 26 008 | 4 484 | 5 316 |
| 4 | 10 | 11.0 | 5.2 | 1 321 | 4.4 | 30 244 | 5 824 | 6 822 |
| 5 | 10 | 9.7 | 4.6 | 1 500 | 5.0 | 34 472 | 7 468 | 8 708 |
| 6 | 10 | 8.8 | 4.2 | 1 805 | 6 | 41 202 | 9 870 | 11 266 |
| 7 | 10 | 8.3 | 3.9 | 2 244 | 7.5 | 51 311 | 13 148 | 14 927 |
| 8 | 10 | 8.0 | 3.8 | 3 174 | 10.6 | 72 753 | 19 278 | 21 541 |
| 9 | 10 | 6.6 | 3.1 | 4 424 | 14.7 | 101 674 | 32 416 | 35 967 |
| 10 | 10 | 6.0 | 2.8 | 12 846 | 42.7 | 292 621 | 103 882 | 113 679 |

The GINI-coefficient

The GINI coefficient for Namibia is 0.5971 according to results from NHIES 2009/2010 compared to 0.6003 in 2003/2004 and 0.701 in 1993/1994. Thus, this survey shows that the overall inequality in the distribution of income has decreased, albeit gradually. Despite this decline however, the level of inequality in Namibia remains among the highest in the world. The level of inequality is lowest in the Scandinavian countries where the GINI is around 0.25.

Figure 1: Lorenz curves of 2003/04 and 2009/10



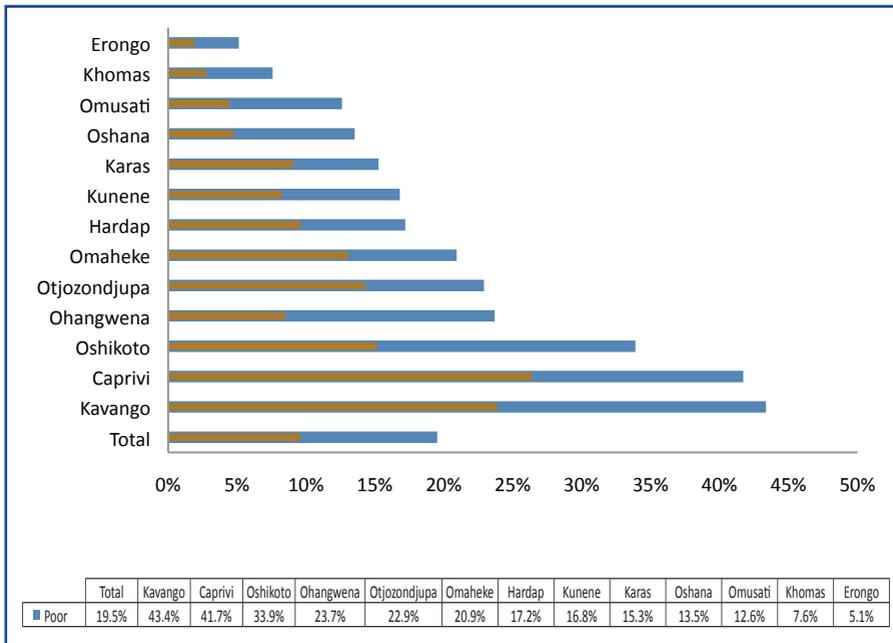
Chapter 10: Distribution of annual consumption

Most consumption in Namibia is on food and beverages, 24%, followed by housing, 23% and “Other Consumption”, 18%, which includes recreation and culture, accommodation services and miscellaneous goods and services. About the same share of consumption is spent on transport and communications, close to 18%. In urban areas the largest share of consumption is allocated to housing (25%), while in rural areas most of the consumption is on food (39%).

Female headed households have a higher share of consumption on food/beverages than male headed households, which in turn have a higher share of consumption on transport and communication.

In the 2003/2004 survey Namibia has introduced a paradigm shift from the conventional food consumption ratio as an indicator of poverty to the **cost of basic needs approach**. Thus in 2009/2010 poverty is measured by this approach. Each household is classified as poor or severely poor based on their costs of basic needs compared to the poverty lines.

Figure 2 Incidence of poverty by region, 2009/2010



Out of all households in Namibia close to 19% are classified as poor and 10% as severely poor. In 2003/2004 the corresponding percentages were 28 and 14. This means that poverty in Namibia has decreased significantly since 2003/2004. The poverty levels have fallen from 30% to 22% for female headed households and 26% to 18% for male headed households, respectively.

Poverty varies between rural and urban areas. About 27% of households in rural areas are poor, compared to 9% in urban areas. The incidence of severely poor households is also high in rural areas, where 14% of the households were found to be severely poor compared to 4% in urban areas. Poverty also varies between regions. The highest incidence of poverty was found in Kavango region where 43% of the households are poor and 24% are severely poor. Poverty incidence is lowest in Erongo where about 5% of the households are poor and 2% are severely poor.

Table 6 Key indicators, 1993/1994-2009/2010

| <i>Key indicators, 1993/1994-2009/2010</i> | 1993/94 | 2003/04 | 2009/10 |
|--|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Average household size | | | |
| Namibia | 5.7 | 4.9 | 4.7 |
| Urban | 4.8 | 4.2 | 4.1 |
| Rural | 6.1 | 5.4 | 5.2 |
| Proportion of population aged 15+ with no formal education | | | |
| Namibia | 30% | 17% | 13% |
| Urban | 11% | 7% | 5% |
| Rural | 39% | 23% | 18% |
| Proportion of households cooking without electricity or gas | | | |
| Namibia | 73% | 65% | 61% |
| Urban | 28% | 28% | 23% |
| Rural | 95% | 91% | 90% |
| Proportion of households with no toilet/use bush | | | |
| Namibia | 57% | 53% | 50% |
| Urban | 8% | 16% | 14% |
| Rural | 81% | 79% | 77% |
| Proportion of households that own a radio | | | |
| Namibia | 65% | 71% | 72% |
| Urban | 80% | 79% | 77% |
| Rural | 57% | 66% | 68% |
| Average annual per capita income (N\$) | | | |
| Namibia | 3 031 | 8 839 | 14 559 |
| Female headed | 1 804 | 6 320 | 9 908 |
| Male headed | 3 783 | 10 570 | 18 223 |
| Proportion of households that are "poor" or "severely poor" | | | |
| Severely poor households | - | 13.8% | 9.6% |
| Poor households (incl. severely poor) | - | 27.6% | 19.5% |
| GINI-coefficient | 0.701 | 0.6003 | 0.5971 |



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