



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

NORTH CENTRAL NAMIBIA

Upland Cereal and Livestock Zone

Upland Cereal and Non Farm

Income Zone

Baseline Livelihood Profiles

Office of the Prime Minister–Directorate Emergency Management
Livelihoods Assessment Main Report- December 2008



NAMIBIA

Vulnerability
Assessment Committee

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Acknowledgements

The Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (Nam-VAC) would like to express its gratitude to the SADC-RVAA programme and Directorate Emergency Management- Office of the Prime Minister, whose collaboration and support made this assessment possible.

Thanks are also offered to all Ministries and Regional Councils who seconded staff to attend and participate in the livelihoods baseline training and assessment.

Special thanks to the National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs) of Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, who provided Team leaders to support the field work and analysis.

Finally, we offer our gratitude to the communities that participated in the assessment, for their willingness to share so much of their time and information with the assessment team. It is our hope that this report will trigger appropriate interventions for the affected communities.

Executive Summary

The Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (Nam-VAC) requires livelihood baseline information on rural households as a reference point for modelling likely effects of shocks such as floods and market failure on the population. Such shocks may severely affect people's ability to maintain their livelihoods and any response needs to be based on information and analysis designed to give solid guidance for disaster mitigation and recovery as well as emergency assessment and early warning and monitoring initiatives. The essential target for any response would be the household, since this is the basic unit of economic operation, and the unit which must try to cope with shocks.

For the above reason, the Household Economy Approach (HEA) is the methodology of choice, giving both a geographical template of livelihood zones and within these zones an analysis of typical household's within different wealth groups – given that these exhibit different levels of vulnerability to shocks. The Upland Cereal and Livestock and Upland Cereal and Non Farm Income Zones in the Omusati, Ohagwena, Oshana and Oshikoto regions were selected on the basis of an earlier national livelihood zoning report, which indicates the area to be prone to natural hazards, particularly annual floods among others.

Objectives of the Assessment

1. To build national capacity through training of Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee members in livelihoods based vulnerability assessment and analysis (VAA) approaches.
2. To establish a detailed livelihoods baseline analysis of socioeconomic groups and their livelihood patterns;
3. To develop a set of clear, risk and vulnerability indicators and policy-oriented recommendations aimed to improve household food security and poverty alleviation in the long-term.

Introduction and Methodology

The methodology used was the Household Economy Approach (HEA) which is an analytical framework, that is used to predict the likely effects of crop failure or other shocks such as drought and floods on future food supply, access and livelihood patterns. The approach estimates the relative contributions of different food and income sources (e.g. own crop production and labour exchange among others) for different wealth groups over a normal/non crisis year.

The training and field work assessment was conducted over a four week period between November 17 and December 16 2008. The first week were dedicated to training participants in the HEA methodology including field work trials and analysis of the information collected. The remaining three weeks focused on conducting interviews in 16 villages with community leaders, village key informants and representatives of wealth groups, analysis and report writing.

The main data collection tools used were a key informant and wealth group checklists, which focus on understanding of wealth groups and various household sources of food, income and expenditure patterns among the three wealth groups as defined by community key informants.

It also explored the issues related to household vulnerability in case of shocks as well as the coping strategies and options they undertake during bad years. Other data collection techniques included proportional piling, year ranking and seasonal calendars.

In this exercise, communities carried out proportional piling to define wealth groups, ranked individual years over the past five years, and identified the determinants of a “normal/non crisis” and “bad/crisis” year. The details of the year ranking were then used to identify the 2006/2007 as the reference period for the baseline livelihoods assessment and analysis.

The identified baseline year was characterized by the following:

- Timely rainfall, which started in October/ November
- Better crop yields and harvest compared with the following agricultural year.
- Less crop destruction by birds and good condition of livestock

The assessment team was comprised of Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (Nam-VAC) technical team members trained in November and December 2008.

Main Findings

The principal objective of the livelihoods baseline assessment was to establish a detailed analysis of livelihood patterns in the reference period 2006/07 in the two livelihood zones. Thus the discussion of findings below emphasizes this baseline analysis. In addition, findings that are particularly relevant to disaster preparedness and response as well as general development are highlighted.

A discussion of the ways in which households in this zone cope with difficult circumstances in “bad years” follows the baseline livelihoods discussion below.

The main livelihoods related risk factors identified by the communities included:

- Drought
- Floods
- Quelia birds
- Pest such as crickets and army worms
- Livestock diseases such as botulism and lump skin

Baseline Livelihoods Analysis (2006/2007):

Main Conclusions and Implications (Upland Cereal and Non Farm Income Zone)

Being in a high density population area, where crop production is not sufficient to meet peoples' basic food requirements and sale of crop is not a typical source of income, the population in this zone mainly relies on off-farm income for their basic sources of food and cash income.

About 40% of incomes for the poor and very poor is obtained from employment (mainly domestic work and cattle herding), and self employment activities such as basket making, beer brewing. This emphasises the importance of employment creation in this zone, given that normally, the very poor, the poor and the middle do not sell any of their crop because production is not enough to meet even 40% of basic food requirement in a year.

The very poor and poor heavily rely on social grants and pensions for their incomes amounting to 53% and 41% of total incomes, respectively. There is need to investigate other income generating projects such as small livestock keeping, so as to help these households move away from mainly being consumption units using income from predictable cash transfers such as old age and disability pension pay outs, but also generate income beyond casual labour.

Expenditure on school fees and related needs is very high and constitutes close to 20% of total expenditure by the poor and the very poor. Assistance in this area would help the poorer households to keep their children in school beyond primary level. Getting more than primary education would increase their chances to get better employment and hopefully move to the next wealth group.

Respondents repeatedly underscored the inadequacy of water resources as many villages rely on limited and expensive sources of water for their livelihoods. Improved access to safe and cheaper water should be accorded high priority as a health and food/livelihoods security intervention in the zones.

Main Conclusions and Implications (Upland Cereal and Livestock Zone)

This is a mainly livestock zone and livestock is potentially an important source of food and income for most wealth groups. However, there seems to be a strong cultural practice of keeping productive assets such as livestock and in most time, not selling any. This is reflected in the number of livestock owned compared to number sold each year.

Expenditure on water for both domestic use and for animals is very expensive. Respondents repeatedly underscored the inadequacy of water resources as many villages rely on limited and expensive sources of water for their livelihoods.

Improved access to safe and cheaper water should be accorded top priority and this will encourage households to own more cattle, so as to earn more from livestock sales.

Despite being a predominantly livestock zone, crop production levels are significant especially for the wealthier households who obtain 50% - 60% of annual basic requirements from crop production. Given the unpredictable rainfall pattern in the livelihood zones, there is need to establish mechanisms for promoting access to improved seeds for staple crops, particularly the drought resistant and short maturation time variety crops. This will boost access to food access among the poorer households through production of own crops.

Lack of market facilities including relevant storage and processing units was identified by respondents as a main constraint to increased agricultural productivity and income generation. Investing in processing and marketing infrastructure may be helpful to those in need.

Expenditure on school fees and related needs is very high and constitutes close to 20% of total expenditure by the poor and the very poor. Assistance in this area would help the poorer households to keep their children in school beyond primary level. Getting more than primary education would increase their chances to get better employment and hopefully move to the next wealth group.

Main Report

Introduction and Methodology

The Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (Nam-VAC) requires baseline information on rural households as a reference point for modelling likely effects of shocks such as drought, flood and market failure. Such shocks may severely affect people's ability to maintain their livelihoods and any response needs to be based on information and analysis designed to give solid guidance for short term relief, medium and long term recovery and development initiatives. The essential target for any response would be the household since this is the basic unit of economic operation, and the unit which must try to cope with shocks.

For the above reason, the Household Economy Approach (HEA) is the methodology of choice, giving both a geographical template of Livelihood Zones, and within these zones an analysis of livelihoods typical of households within different wealth groups – given that these exhibit different levels of vulnerability to shocks.

The Household Economy Approach (HEA) is an analytical framework, developed between 1992 and 1997 by Save the Children in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). The approach provides a framework to predict the likely effects of crop failure or other shocks such as floods on future food supply and livelihood patterns. These predictions are based upon an assessment of livelihood patterns in normal (i.e., non-shock) years combined with an assessment of coping and distress strategies.

The training and field work assessment was conducted over a four week period between November 17 and December 16 2008. The first week were dedicated to training participants in the HEA methodology including field work trials and analysis of the information collected. The remaining three weeks focused on conducting interviews in 16 villages with community leaders, village key informants and representatives of wealth groups, analysis and report writing.

The field work assessment focused on understanding the various household sources of food, income and expenditure patterns among the four wealth groups as defined by community key informants. It also explored the issues related to household vulnerability in case of shocks as well as the coping strategies and options they undertake during bad years.

Household economy analysis establishes a picture of typical, normal livelihood patterns for households in a specific livelihood zone. Both zones are characterized by unreliable rainfall pattern. As a result, both areas experience wide inter-annual variations in climatic and production conditions. In an effort to clarify the range of conditions that local communities must cope with in most years, a "year ranking" exercise was completed. In this exercise, communities ranked individual years over the past five years, and identified the determinants of what makes a year "very good," "good," "normal/average," "bad" and "very bad". The details of the year ranking were then used to identify the 2006/2007 as the baseline or reference year for the livelihoods assessment and analysis.

The identified baseline year was characterized by the following:

- Timely rainfall, which started in October/ November
- Better crop yields and harvest compared with the following agricultural year.
- Less crop destruction by birds and good condition of livestock

The Upland Cereal and Non Farm Income Livelihood Zone

Zone Description

This zone has an estimated population of 782,112 and lies in the northern part of the country bordering Angola. It mainly covers north-east Omusati, northern Oshana, north-west Oshikoto and western Ohangwena regions.

It covers one of the most densely populated areas of Namibia and receives an average rainfall of 350-400 mm per annum with significant variations in amount and timing. Drained by water courses such as Oshana and seasonal Cuvelai Rivers characterised by floods, which flow into the Etosha pan, its vegetation cover is mainly Mopane and dense thickets.

Main crops grown in the area include millet (*mahangu*) and sorghum; however overall food production is insufficient to cover people's annual food needs. Many households in the area own cattle that are kept outside the zone, supplemented with small stock such as goats.

Due to the high population density livelihoods have been diversified particularly into non-farm income sources, such as trading, crafts and labour. The main sources of household food are purchases from the market, with own crops and exploitation of some natural resources such as in the Etosha national park, supplemented by the seasonal rivers particularly during the rain season.

Main sources of household income include wage labour, pensions, informal sector (entrepreneurial activities and businesses) both within the area and through long-distance migration, livestock sales, natural resource exploitation and tourism (trophy hunting, wild life meat sales and employment within the hospitality industry) in the Etosha national park.

Markets and Trade

Key food markets are locally situated within the zone. These markets are comprised of both formal and informal open and oxen markets. The majority of households have very good access to the markets particularly during non flood years. These markets include Oshakati, Ondangwa Ongwediva, Oshikuku, Ruacana, Oshikango, Eenhana, Omuthiya and Outapi among others. The Key markets are locally situated within the zone and seem to work reasonably well. The rural and difficult to reach areas are also well covered by small 'Cuca' shops stocked with food items and groceries in strategic settlement areas. The markets function well and provide a reliable supply of food and other basic groceries.

Meanwhile households intending to purchase food items in bulk occasionally travel to urban centres such as Oshakati and Ongwediva, but this is limited to distant villages due to additional costs of transport.

The Activity Seasonal Calendar

Activities	Who	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Land preparation	h/h	█	█										
Rainfall				█	█	█	█	█	█				
Ploughing	Men & women			█	█	█	█						
Planting	Men & women			█	█	█	█						
Weeding	h/h				█	█	█	█					
Harvesting	h/h									█	█		
Threshing	h/h											█	█
Winnowing	women											█	█
Livestock herding	Men				█	█	█	█	█	█			
Milk Production	Men					█	█	█	█	█	█		
Selling of:													
Green crops	women						█	█	█				
Selling of:													
Livestock	men	█										█	█
Other activities													
Community Labour	h/h					█	█	█					
Mopane worm collection	women & children							█					
Marura juice & oil extraction	women	█	█				█	█	█				
Hazards													
Dry spell						█	█	█	█				
Armyworm outbreak						█	█	█	█				
Cricket outbreak						█	█	█	█	█			
Birds outbreak									█	█	█	█	

The above calendar outlines the months during which various agricultural and other activities are carried out, the main hazards experienced in the agricultural year and the specific activities under taken by household members. The colour bars show the period in which various activities take place. Although activities such as ploughing and planting are done by both men and women, respondents indicated that women are more involved in planting, while men do more of the manual work such as ploughing.

Community Wealth Breakdown

The wealth breakdown exercise was determined by the description, that the community key informants made of the typical characteristics that differentiated each wealth group from others. Four wealth groups were identified by the key informants namely the very poor (Oohepele-lela), the Poor (Oohepele), the Middle (Aapokati) and the Better-off (Aayamba-ngaa). In terms of proportion of total households in the different wealth groups, the very poor and poor constitute over half of the total households with 30% and 35% respectively. The middle and better-off households constitute about 20% and 15% respectively.

		Wealth Group Information				
		HH size	Land area cultivated	Cattle	Goats	Hens
	Very Poor	5 - 7	0.5 - 2 ha	0	0-3	2 - 10
	Poor	5 - 8	1 - 2 ha	0 - 5	5- 12	5 - 15
	Middle	7- 10	2 - 3 ha	5- 10	10 - 20	10 - 25
	Better-off	7 - 9	2 - 4 ha	10- 20	20 - 30	10 - 20

Livestock ownership is a main indicator of wealth with the wealthier households owning cattle and goats while the poorer households mainly owning some few goats and chicken. In addition to cash income derived from the sale of livestock and livestock products, the wealthier households also use animal manure to improve crop yields and consume animal products such as milk and meat during festive seasons. In addition to the livestock shown in the table above, donkeys and pigs are also kept by some households. The very poor do not keep donkeys or pigs. The poor own 0 -2 donkeys and 0-2 pigs compared with 2-6 donkeys and 1-3 pigs for the middle. The better-off own the largest number of donkeys estimated between 0 -4 and a small number of pigs.

In the rural areas of Namibia, land allocation to households is done by the headmen. The allocations are made according to available arable land trying to ensure every household gets some arable land. However, the wealthier households require more land for cultivation and usually increase their land sizes through negotiations with the village headmen. These households also tend to occupy up land areas, less prone to floods, making the poorest households more vulnerable to floods in recent years. In some areas, the farmers who settled earlier were reported to have more land than those who settled later. Population density also determines the overall size of land for households in different communities.

Other factors which differentiate wealth groups includes access to implements such as ploughs and draft power required for tillage purposes. This determines

the size of land cultivated by the different households in a particular agricultural season.

In most cases farmers indicated that they leave some land uncultivated as it is reserved for grazing their livestock. However since the livestock numbers and the grazing areas near the communities are not adequate, some of the owned land is reserved for grazing although this is normally not adequate, forcing households with large herds to take their livestock to distant communal grazing areas. These are some of the households affected by floods, when ever access to their livestock and herdmen is constrained by floods.

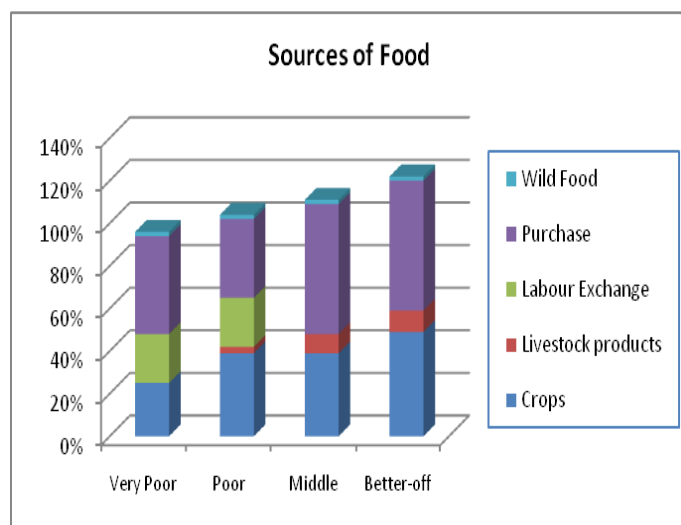
Although there is a policy that lack of school fees should not be a reason for sending a pupil out of school, children from very poor and poor households sometimes fail to complete their secondary education due to lack of fees. In most communities where senior secondary classes were not available and children had either to be put in boarding facilities or travel every day to the schools that have the classes, only the better off and some of the middle wealth group household are able to afford the cost of education. This leaves the children in the very poor and poor households out of school earlier than the other children. Typically, children from poorer households drop out of school at grade 10 to 12, while children from better-off households have the capacity to attend tertiary education.

The level of education of breadwinners and the level they can afford to promote their children to i.e. secondary and tertiary level is equally a crucial determinant of wealth in the zone. The importance of level of education is highlighted in the proportion of income the wealthier households get from formal employment and the likely guarantees from their educated children. For the poorer households, the opposite is true in that the restriction to primary school education, limits their long term capacity to do more than make ends meet.

The wealthier tend to have larger households as they take on children from poorer relatives and some of the households live with domestic workers and herdsmen.

Household Sources of Food

The main household sources of food across all wealth groups in this livelihood zone include; own crop production, livestock products, purchase, labour exchange and consumption of wild foods. Own crop production and purchase have a more significant contribution of about 25- 49% and 37- 64% respectively across all wealth groups.



Wild foods were found to be the least important source of food recording 2% across all wealth groups. Labour exchange contributes substantially to only the very poor and poor wealth categories. Livestock products including milk and meat provide modest contribution to the middle and better-off households and very little contribution to the poor and nothing to the very poor. Below is a detailed description of how each source contributes to the household food income for each wealth group.

Own crop production

The main food crops produced by all wealth groups in this zone are millet locally termed "mahangu", sorghum and beans. Millet is the main staple hence all households strive to produce as much as they can. Sorghum and beans are valued as supplementary crops. Own crop production contributes 49% for better off and 39% among the middle households. Both wealth groups have the capacity to cultivate larger pieces of land and also apply fertilizer and manure.

The very poor and poor obtain 25% and 39% respectively, of total food requirement from own production. Lack of access to adequate manure is the main reason for low yields for the poorer households.

Labour exchange for food

Labour exchange contributes significantly to the very poor and the poor at 23% of annual baseline consumption. The kind of casual labour supplied to the middle and better off is mainly weeding and harvesting. Payment in kind is done in agreed amounts of millet (Mahangu) per person per day. In some instances the poor and very poor are paid per amount of area weeded.

Livestock products

The poor, middle and better - off obtain some of their food from their own livestock. The main livestock products are milk and meat. Some of the milk is processed into butter. The contribution of these livestock products combined is 10% for the better-off, 9% for the middle and 3% for the poor. The typical very poor households do not own livestock.

Food Purchase

Food purchase is a main source of food for all the wealth groups in this zone. Even for the better off and middle crop production is mainly for consumption although the better- off sell some of the millet and purchase some other cereal such as maize meal. The very poor and poor also purchase cereals. Other main food purchased by all wealth groups includes cooking oil, beans, fish and meat. Food purchase contribution to annual consumption stands at 61% for the better-off and the middle, 37% for the poor and 46% for the very poor.

Although all wealth groups purchase food, the very poor and poor households' expenditure on food represents 36% and 30% respectively, of total household expenditure.

Consumption of wild food

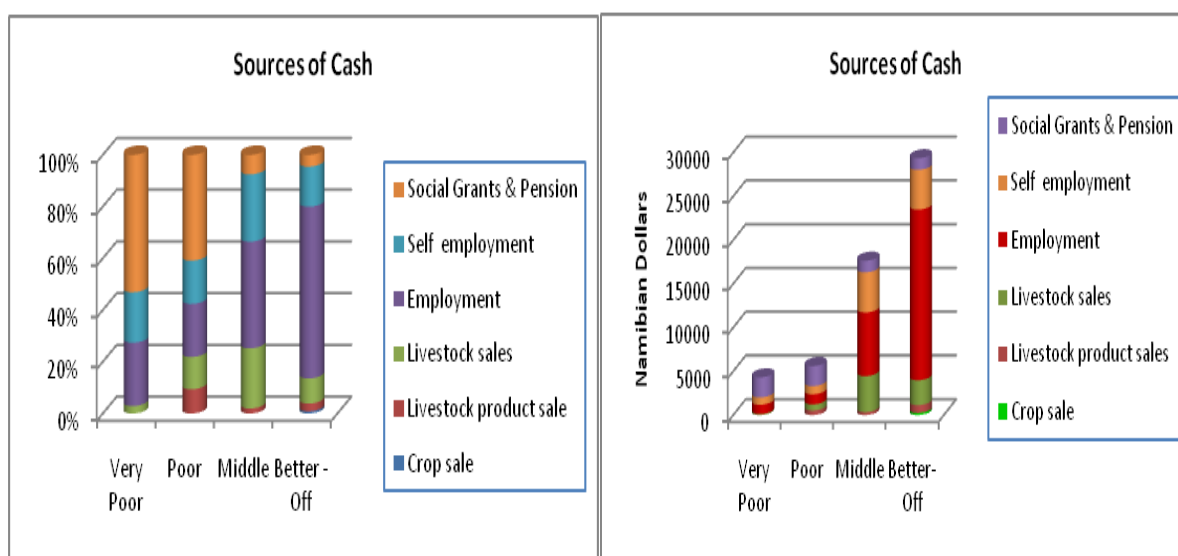
The wild foods consumed in this zone mainly include palm fruit and marula oil. The wild fruits are considered a delicacy and for that reason they are consumed

by all wealth groups. Typically these wild foods contribute up to 2% to household food income across all wealth groups.

Sources of Household Cash Income

Employment is paramount amongst income sources across all wealth groups. The difference is in the type and value of the employment that different wealth groups engage in. For the wealthier households, a member is commonly in full time salaried or skilled employment, while the poorer households mainly engage in lowly paid seasonal farm work.

The pattern observed is that there is a small difference between the total income of the very poor and poor wealth groups, but a large difference between those groups and the middle and better-off households. The small difference in incomes between the very poor and the poor is due to the heavy reliance of the two wealth groups on the same income sources particularly casual labour and social grants.



Annual Income in Namibian Dollars	Very poor	Poor	Middle	Better-off
	4,315 N\$	5,605 N\$	17,655 N\$	29,365 N\$

Predictable transfers such as old age and disability pensions and OVC grants provide a more reliable source of income for the very poor and poor households, although some proportions of wealthier groups also benefit from the cash transfer schemes. It should be noted that the wealthier groups do not typically engage in each of the activities indicated. Rather each household gets a similar total income by engaging in a combination of livestock sales plus some small business, formal employment or contract work for construction. The poorer wealth groups have more multiple sources of cash income which contribute small proportions to their annual cash income. The details of each cash income are described below:

Crop Sales

Crop sales are not significant in this zone though small quantities of millet and beans are sold in a normal year especially by the middle and the better off households. The very poor and poor households are unable to sell due to merger harvests and the normal household consumption needs. In the reference year only the better off households were able to sell part of their millet harvest which contributed to 1% of their annual income.

Livestock sales

All households in the four wealth groups derive some income from livestock sales. The very poor are getting some income from chicken sales which contributed 3% of their annual income compared with 12%, 23% and 10% among the poor, middle and better off households respectively. These households were mainly selling goats and chicken. The sale of cattle was not typical among all wealth groups, since its considered as a form of saving by the middle and better off households as shown by the number of cattle owned by them (5–15) in the reference year.

Livestock product sales

The main livestock product sold is milk and the poor, middle and better off households earned income from this activity. Milk products earned up to 9% of the annual income of the poor compared with 2% and 3% for the middle and better off households respectively.

Casual labour

Casual labour was a common source of income for mainly the very poor and poor households. It is comprised of mainly on and off-farm labour in the livelihood zone. The main types of off-farm labour carried out by these two wealth groups included construction of huts, granaries, brick moulding, and fencing among others, whilst on-farm is mainly weeding and harvesting.

Sometimes terms of payment of casual labour are in-kind, mainly in form of an agreed amount of millet grain for a piece of work completed. As expected, the middle and better-off households were not engaged in casual labour activities during the reference period.

Self employment

Activities such as sale of baskets, small businesses and beer brewing are common sources of cash in the zone. All the wealth groups earned some cash income from self employment in the reference year. The very poor, the poor, the middle and the better-off earned 20%, 17%, 26% and 26% respectively, from self employment activities. Sale of local craft was a typical source of income for the very poor households, while the poor derived a significant proportion of their cash income from local beer brewing. The middle and the better-off households mainly engaged in running small businesses such as “cuca shops” and “shebeens”.

Formal employment

Most of those earning money from this source either had the head of household employed in a government or public service job. The middle and better-off households derive more cash income from this source compared to the very poor and poor households who are mostly employed as maids or cattle herders. Employment contributed 41% and 66% of the annual cash income of the middle and better off households respectively in the reference year. For the very poor and poor households, employment (which includes casual labour), contributed 24% and 21% respectively, to their annual cash incomes.

Remittances and gifts

This category did not come out as a typical income source for all wealth groups in this livelihood zone. Most of those earning money from this source either had the head of household employed in a government or public service job, or had a family member temporarily or permanently working in factories (mainly garment factories) in Windhoek and towns like Oshakati and Ondangwa who would remit money to the household. Only households in the middle and better off category were earning money from this source although estimating the cash income from this source was problematic, partly due to respondents reluctance to discuss the issue.

Social grants and pensions

This safety net is aimed at financially assisting the elderly and less privileged households. This is done through orphans and vulnerable children's grants, elderly grants and pension payments for the elderly people (*above 60 years old*). This income source is not received by a majority of households, but about 30% of households in all wealth groups. Households in the poor and very poor household's (*about 20%*) further benefit from the OVC grant which typically is given to a maximum of three children in the recipient households, with the first child receiving N\$200, second and third child receiving N\$100/month each in the reference year.

To account for typical household income from this category, proportionate income was put into the household's income to avoid overestimations. Social grants and old age pensions was the most important source of income for the very poor and poor households standing at 53% and 41% respectively. The middle and the Better off got 8% and 5% respectively, from this source mainly constituted by old age pensions.

Due to lack of up to date records, it was not possible to verify the information given by communities with data on number of people receiving old age pensions and OVC grants in the Zone. This was identified as an area for further investigations.

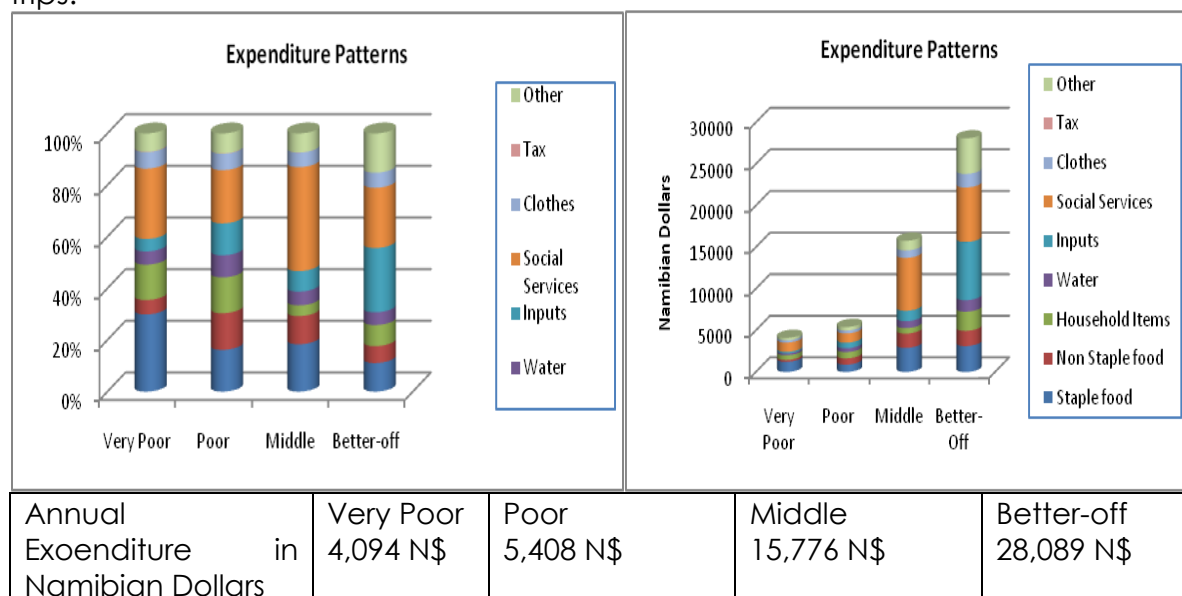
Expenditure Patterns

The expenditure patterns of the wealth groups in this livelihood zone vary significantly across the groups.

The very poor households' expenditure on staples is very high at 30% of total household expenditure compared to 18% and 11% for the middle and better-off respectively.

The combined expenditure on staples and non staple food for the very poor and poor households is 36% and 30% respectively. This makes food the most expensive item on the household expenditure list. It is worth remembering that the very poor and poor also obtain substantial staple food from payment in kind at 23% of the annual household food consumption. If this source of food is converted into monetary terms, expenditure on food would be in excess of 60% of total household expenditure. This would fall within the previous national definition of poor households i.e. households with expenditure on food being 60% and above, of total household expenditure.

The middle and better-off households spend far more on inputs per unit area than the poorer households. In addition, the middle and better-off households spend significant amounts on transport especially to work places and on business trips.



Expenditure on water increases with wealth mainly because the wealthier households would sometimes have to buy water for their livestock. Although the percentage expenditure on water is similar across the wealth groups, the actual amounts paid by the wealthier groups are much higher than for the poorer households.

Expenditure on social services by the poor and very poor households is very significant at 27% and 21% respectively, of the total household expenditure. The most significant area in social services is education and this alludes to the

importance poorer households put to education for the children as a means to get into salaried employment and hopefully out of the lower wealth status.

Tax payments are uniform across the wealth groups and the tax capture is the hut tax of N\$5 which is paid by every household regardless of wealth status. It was not possible to ascertain other taxes incurred in business and other taxable activities but to avoid over estimations, only profits were recorded in the income section.

'Other' expenditure includes transport, Vaseline, gifts, church tithes, beer and funeral contributions.

Hazards

Drought , floods and quelia birds were identified as chronic problems for the communities in both zones. Pests such as crickets and army worms are also major problems causing serious damage to crops. Livestock diseases were identified as annual problems with diseases such as botulism and lump skin topping the list for cattle and goats respectively.

The Upland Cereal and Livestock Livelihood Zone

Zone Description

This zone mainly covers upland Kavango and drier areas of Caprivi with parts of Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena and Oshikoto

The zone is a medium-altitude flat plain, rugged with mainly woodland and some dense shrubs and dominated by a huge expanse of deep Kalahari sands. It receives an average of 550-600mm of rainfall between December and March. The soils are mainly a mixture of sandy loam and wind - blown sandy soils drained by parallel ridges of dunes running east to west as well as seasonal rivers such as the Omatako, making it suitable for the cropping of small grain cereals such as millet (*mahangu*) and sorghum. Other crops produced in the area include beans, groundnuts, sweet potatoes, pumpkins and melons.

Livestock are also kept in significant numbers. Settlement patterns in the zone vary from basic non-permanent settlements into small and large villages.

The main sources of household food in addition to own crops are labour exchange for food, purchases from the local markets and collection of wild fruits in the community forests.

Main sources of income include pensions; remittance, tourism and hospitality industry, natural resource exploitation, as well as non formal sector activities such as trade and labour sales (in the fields and herding). The dependence on poorly paid and seasonally available unskilled labour is the main cause of the current poverty trap among the poorest households.

Markets and Trade

Markets are locally situated and seem to work reasonably well. The rural and difficult to reach areas are also well covered by small 'Cuca' shops stocked with food items and groceries. Rural and Urban open markets provide a reliable supply of food and groceries in the zone. The only interruption to good market access is during periods of flood, when feeder roads and market infrastructure is damaged by too much ground water.

Seasonal Activity Calendar

Activities	Who	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Land preparation	h/h												
Rainfall													
Plough	Men & women												
Planting	Men & women												
Weeding	h/h												
Harvesting	h/h												
Green Consumption	h/h												
Threshing	h/h												
Winnowing	Women												
Milking	Men												
Selling of:													
Cattle	Men												
Goats	Men												
Selling of:													
Green crops	Women												
Millet	Men & women												
Purchases													
Millet	Men & women												
Maize meal	Men & women												

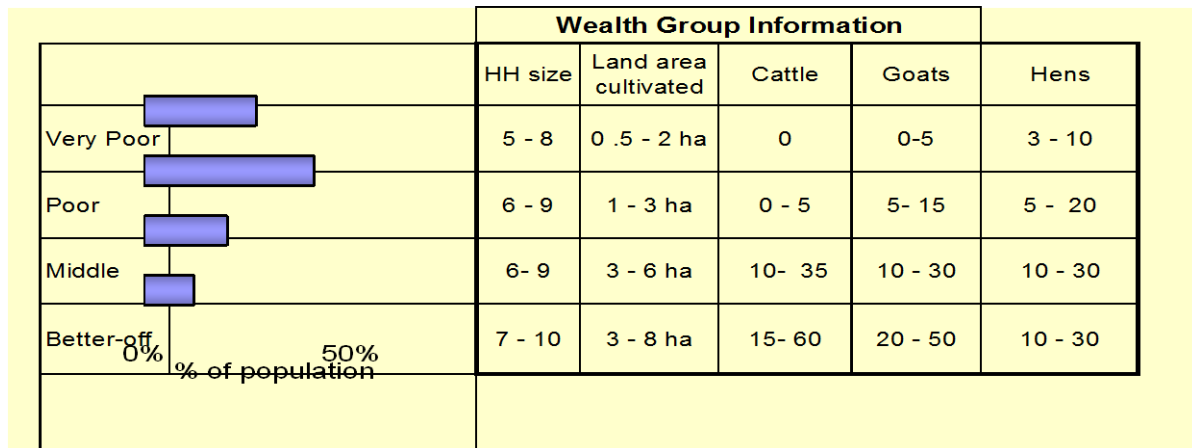
The calendar shows the months during which various agricultural and other activities are carried out and members of the household are mostly involved. The calendar also shows period during which purchases of food are more pronounced. The colour bars indicate the period in which various activities normally take place.

Community Wealth Breakdown

The wealth breakdown exercise was determined by the description that the community key informants made of the different characteristics that distinguished households by wealth status. Four wealth groups were identified by the key informants namely the very poor, the poor, the middle and the better-off households. In terms of proportion of total households in the different wealth groups, the very poor constituted 27% of the total households, the poor 41%, the middle 20% and the Better-off 12%

This is a predominantly livestock zone although it is mainly the wealthier who own cattle and large numbers of goats.

The number of livestock alone however, did not determine whether a household was of the middle or better off wealth group as can be seen in the overlap of livestock figures below.



Livestock provides the households with a good coping mechanism in difficult times as it can either be sold or exchanged for the needed commodities. Pigs were not a very common type of livestock in the communities. Pigs were considered very difficult animals to feed therefore the poor and very poor could not afford the extra food needed to feed them. The poor groups mainly sell chicken to raise money for household needs such as school fees and food. The very poor in this zone do not own donkeys and pigs, while the poor own 0-2 donkeys, the middle own 2 -4 donkeys and 1 -2 pigs. The better-off own 2-6 donkeys and 1-2 pigs. The reason for the very poor and poor not owning pigs is said to be the additional cost of feeding pigs compared to goats, which mainly feed on natural vegetation.

Other characteristics such as size of land cultivated and key sources of income were also considered. Crop production for the poor and very poor households is very low and not able to fulfil the household consumption needs. Therefore they engage in a variety of casual labour activities that are provided by the middle and better-off households to supplement their food and income.

Livestock ownership and land cultivated are important determinants of wealth in this zone. The middle and better-off households cultivate 3-4 times more land than the poorer households. This, coupled with availability of manure from the livestock ensures high production enabling the wealthier households to meet up to 60% of annual basic food needs from own production and also be able to sell some of the harvest.

Higher educational level of the household enables them to secure salaried or skilled employment and this separates the wealthier from the poorer households, who rely on low paid and seasonal employment in addition to small business activities like brewing and craft making.

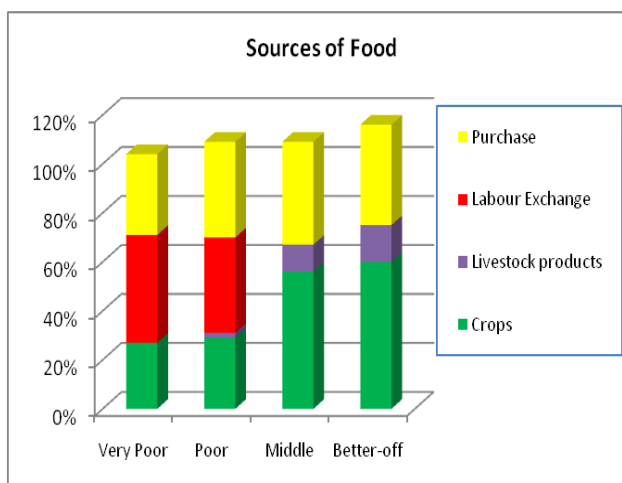
Household Sources of Food

All four wealth groups in this zone were able to meet their basic food requirements in the baseline year through four main sources of food sources. These include own crop production, livestock products, purchase and labour exchange.

The very poor and poor households in the zone rely mainly on labour exchange and purchases to obtain their annual basic food requirements, whilst the middle and better-off rely more on own crops.

Livestock products (milk and meat) provide a large portion of the middle and better-off household's food needs compared with the very poor and poor households.

Below is a detailed description of how each source contributes to the household food income for each wealth group.



Own Crop Production

The main food crops produced by all wealth groups in this livelihood zone are millet (mahangu), sorghum and beans. Millet is the main staple hence all households strive to produce as much as they can. Sorghum and beans are valued as supplementary crops. Own crop production contributes 60% and 56% of the better-off and middle household food needs.

This is a very high contribution knowing that this is a predominantly livestock zone. The wealthier households have access to larger pieces of land and spend significant amounts of cash on manure and fertiliser resulting in higher production.

Own crop production is also quite significant for the very poor and poor households contributing 27% and 29% respectively, to annual household consumption. The poorer households cultivate smaller pieces of land sometimes as small as half of a hectare and have limited or no access to manure thus the low harvests.

Labour Exchange

Labour exchange is the most important source of food for the very poor contributing 44% of annual basic requirement. It is also the most important for the poor, alongside purchases contributing 39%. Main casual labour activities are weeding, ploughing and harvesting although occasionally activities such as repairing fences and construction are also available.

Livestock products

This being a livestock zone, products such as milk and meat play an important role in household access to food. The middle and better – off obtain 11% and 15% of their annual basic requirements from milk and meat. Even for the poor households, accessing 2% of annual basic food requirements from livestock products is quite significant. The Poor', 'Middle' and 'Better Off' obtain some of their food from their own livestock.

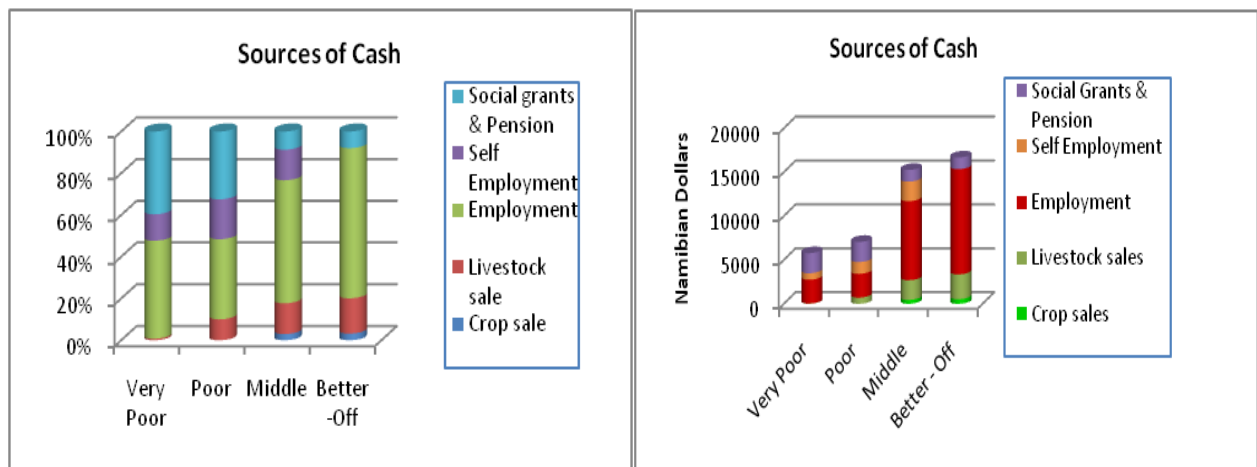
Purchase

Food purchase is crucial for all wealth groups in this zone although the wealthier households mainly purchase maize which is not grown in the area while the poorer will largely spend more on buying the staple (millet). Purchase of staple as a percentage of total household expenditure is 21% for the very poor and 17% for the poor. The combined expenditure on staple and non staple food is 43% of total household expenditure for very poor, 34% for the poor, 20% for the middle and 10% for the better – off.

Hosuehold Sources of Cash Income

The dominant sources of cash in the zone are employment, social grants, and livestock sales. Crop sales are very insignificant mainly because this is a predominantly livestock zone and crops are grown for consumption while cash income is from Livestock.

It was striking to realise that livestock products are not a major source of cash in this zone given the large numbers of livestock available. The reason given was that lack of adequate pasture resulted in a very low milk yield which was left for the calves.



Annual income in Namibian Dollars	Very Poor	Poor	Middle	Better-off
	5,778 N\$	7,058 N\$	15,263 N\$	16,682 N\$

Each of the income sources is described below.

Crop Sales

The low level of crop earnings for the wealthier households is mainly attributed to this being a predominantly livestock zone and the longer terms effect of poor rainfall that discourages investments in crop production. The wealthier groups sold part of their millet and bean harvest to purchase other items especially maize flour.

Livestock Sales

All wealth groups got some income from livestock sales in a reference year. The very poor and poor groups were mainly selling chickens with the middle selling some goats and cattle. A cow in the reference year could fetch N\$ 2,000; a goat could fetch a price of N\$ 300 whilst a chicken was selling at N\$ 25. The very poor, the poor, the middle and the better off got N\$ 75, N\$ 966, N\$ 2250 and N\$ 2825 respectively.

Casual Labour

The typical income source for the very poor and poor households in this zone is agricultural casual labour such as weeding and harvesting. Although wage rates vary, on average one person per day could earn approximately N\$20 for weeding and N\$10 for harvesting.

The labour market is localized with the middle and better-off households acting as the employer's for the other groups.

Labour migration was not common in the reference year, and was considered quite an extreme coping strategy only used in very bad circumstances.

Self Employment, Businesses and Crafts

Basket sales, sale of thatching grass, small businesses and beer brewing were other sources of income in the livelihood zone in the reference year. Basket sales were common in the very poor and the poor wealth groups whilst beer brewing was typical with the poor. Self employment contributed 13% of total income for the very poor, 19% for the poor and 15% for the middle. The better – off did not engage in self employment activities.

Employment

The difference in employment between poorer and wealthier households is not just in the amount of money earned but also in the fact that for the poorer people work is seasonal, whilst for the wealthier it is year round. The seasonal nature of the employment for the poorer could mean there are periods of the year when households may not have any source of cash.

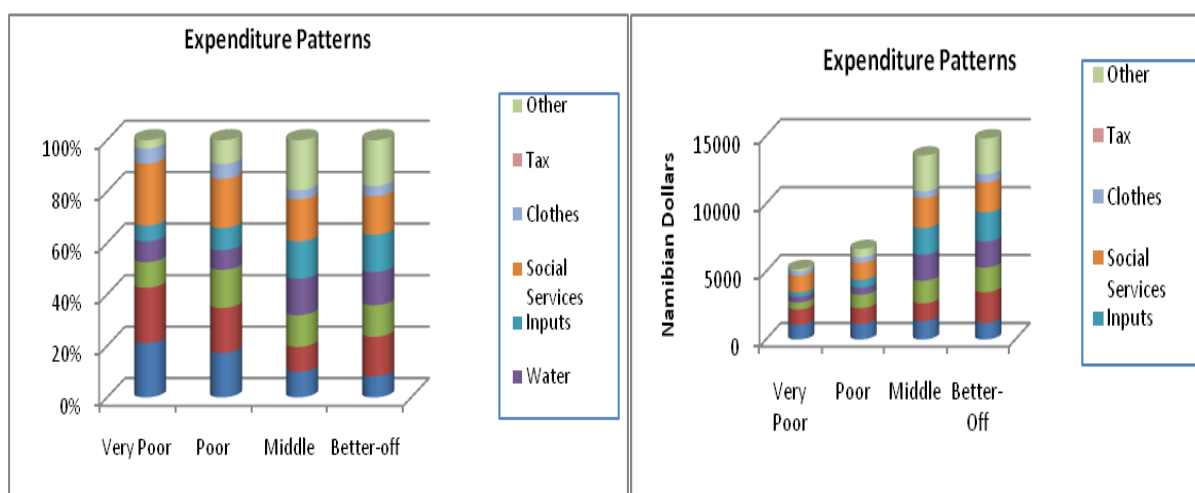
Employment accounted for 72% of the total income for the better – off and 59% for the middle. For the very poor and the poor, casual labour and other forms of employment such as cattle herding and domestic work have been combined under employment and contributed 47% and 38% respectively.

Social grants and Pensions

This safety net is aimed at financially assisting the elderly and less privileged households. This is done through orphans and vulnerable children grants, elderly grants and pension payments for the elderly people (*above 60 years old*). This income source is not received by a majority of households but about 30% of households in all wealth groups. Households in the poor and very poor household's (*about 20%*) further benefit from the OVC grant which typically is given to three children in the recipient households, with the first child receiving N\$200, second and third child N\$100/month each in the reference year. To account for typical household income from this category, proportionate income was put into the household's income to avoid overestimations.

Household Expenditure Patterns

Expenditure on food is the single highest expenditure for poorer households accounting for 43% for the very poor and 34% for the poor. It should be noted that in addition to such a high proportion of expenditure on food, the very poor and poor also obtain a high percentage of their food from labour exchange, at 44% and 39% respectively. It could be argued therefore, that if the payment in kind was converted into cash payments and they buy the food, the poorer households would be buying 70%-80% of annual basic food requirements.



Annual expenditure in Namibian Dollars	Very poor	Poor	Middle	Better-off
	5,195 N\$	6,672 N\$	13,556 N\$	14,817 N\$

Purchase of food by the middle and better-off accounts for 20% and 23% respectively. It is worth noting that a significant proportion of this expenditure is on non staple items such as cooking oil, sugar and meat.

All wealth groups paid for water and the amount was uniform. However, in addition, the middle and better-off paid for water for animals and as such, in absolute terms the wealthier households spend 4- 5 times more than the poorer. Expenditure on water accounts for 8% of total expenditure for the very poor and poor, 14% for the middle and 13% for the better-off.

Spending on social services was very high across the wealth groups but particularly high for the very poor households for whom 24% of total expenditure was on social services which mainly education costs.

Hazards

Drought, floods and quelia birds were identified as chronic problems for the communities in both zones. Pests such as crickets and army worms are also sa major problem causing serious damage to crops. Livestock diseases were identified as annual problems with diseases such as botulism and lump skin topping the list for cattle and goats respectively.

	Crop Type	Weight in kilograms
Olata/bucket	Millet grain	18
	Beans	17
	Maize grain	17
	Sorghum grain	18
	Groundnuts dried	18
	Bambara Nuts	18
Engine oil tin	Cereals	0.5
Okanepi/Okapapi	Liquids e.g. marula oil	200mls/0.2kgs
Local grain storage	Big	40X50kg bags?
	Average	20x50kg bags?
	Small	10X50kg bags?
Hectare	Official	100x100meters

Annex 1:

	Estimation	Football pitch
Furrow	Ploughing	350x50m /N\$150
Six Steps x 2steps	Weeding	1x10meters/N\$1
Piece of Meat	Beef	0.3-0.5kg/N\$5-8
Pumpkin	Fruit	1kg?
Water Melons	Fruit	2-3kg
Chicken	Carcass	1kg
Maize	Cob	0.15-0,3kg
Olata	Marula nut	2 litres of oil
Olata	Melon seed	2 litres of oil
Rate of payments	Cattle herders	N\$ 200-300
	Domestic workers	N\$ 200-300
Bread	Standard	0.9kg

Local Weights and Measures

Annex 2

Prices in the Reference Year 2006/2007

Commodity / Item	Price per unit of work / unit
Matches	N\$ 2.50 per box of 10
Tea/ coffee	N\$ 4 per 50g
Salt	N\$ 2 per Kg
Kerosene	N\$ 5 per liter or N\$ 3 per 0,75
Candles	N\$ 6 per packet of 6 candles
Soap	N\$ 5 per bar
Water (human)	N\$ 25 per month or N\$10 per month
Ploughing	N\$ 180 – 200 per hectare
School fee (primary)	N\$ 30 per term
School uniform	N\$ 137 per year
Weeding	N\$20 00 per day (which is N\$ 10 00 per furrow and, a person can do 2 furrow a day (minimum))

Land preparation	Typically is done by 1 person, 2 days a month for 2 months @ N\$ 20.00 each day
Harvesting	Typically is done by 1 person 7 days a month for 1 month @ N\$ 10 a day
Basket sale	Typically they do 7 basket a year @ N\$ 40.00
Domestic work	N\$ 200 a month for 12 month
Herding	N\$150 a month for 12 months
Cattle	N\$ 2000
Goat	N\$ 300
Chicken	N\$ 25
Traditional beer	1L glass per day @ N\$ 60c
Fertilizer	50kg @ N\$ 500
Water for animals	N\$ 2 per cattle per day and N\$0.5 per goat per day
Firewood	4 bunch a month @N\$10
Water for human	N\$ 20 per month
Grinding	20kg per week @N\$ 10
Paraffin	2 liter for every 2week at N\$7
Mahangu	N\$1.8, per Kg
Maize meal	N\$ 3.3, per Kg
Meat	N\$1.8, per Kg
Beans	N\$2, per Kg
Vegetable oil	N\$ 10 per liter
Sugar	N\$6.3,per Kg
Sorghum	N\$1.8 per Kg
Rice	N\$10 per Kg
Bread	N\$5.20 per 0.9kg
Dried fish	N\$ 3.5 per Kg
Harvesting	1 person, 4 day a month for 1 month get 1 olata a day

Annex 3

Villages visited during the Assessment

Livelihood Zone	Village
Upland Cereal and Non-farm income	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Okashana ka Ben 2. Ompundja 3. Ekamba 4. Onaamutayi 5. Eunda

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Okambembe 7. Ohalushu 8. Ohaingu 9. Eengolo
<p>Upland Cereal and Livestock</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uukwiyushona 2. Okalumbu 3. Onyuulae 4. Enyana 5. Elundu 6. Iilyateko 7. Etilyasa <div data-bbox="588 667 1359 1339" style="text-align: center;"> <p>Livelihood Baseline Map</p> <p>The map displays the following regions and their livelihood categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oshana: Primarily Upland Cereal and Non-farm income (yellow). Ohangwena: Primarily Upland Cereal and Livestock (green). Oshikoto: Primarily Upland Cereal and Non-farm income (yellow). Omusati: Primarily Upland Cereal and Non-farm income (yellow). <p>Villages are marked with blue dots and labeled: Einda, Eengolo, Okambembe, Ohaingu, Elundu, Ohangwena, Etyahya, Iiyateko, Ekambo, Onamutayi, Otamanzu, Omyunda, Uukwiyushona, Onyuulae, Onamishu, Okasanga.</p> <p>Legend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Villages □ Regions ■ Upland Cereal and Non - farm income (Yellow) ■ Upland Cereal and Livestock (Green) <p>Scale: 0 to 200 Kilometers</p> <p>Compass Rose: N, S, E, W</p> </div>

Annex 4

Namibia Livelihood Zones

November 2008

