



Government of the Republic of
Namibia

Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (Nam-VAC)

Draft Presentation on Livelihood Zoning & Baselines



NAMIBIA
Vulnerability
Assessment Committee

February 16th, 2009



Definitions & Concepts: Vulnerability, Poverty and Livelihoods

- **Poverty** refers to failure to attain a minimum acceptable consumption level of food and basic needs
- **Vulnerability** refers to the risk of shocks occurring to people's livelihood and their inability to deal with such shocks when they occur.
 - Levels of vulnerability are often tied to poverty (primarily access, i.e. ability to purchase basic requirements)
- **Livelihoods** refers to sum of ways in which households obtain the things necessary for their lives both in good and bad years.

What is a livelihood zone?

- A geographical area within which households obtain the essentials of their livelihoods, notably food and cash income, by largely the same combination of means, both in good and bad years.
- The areas show homogenous ecological and economic factors, but richer and poorer households are able to use local resources to different degrees.

Why do livelihood zoning and mapping?

- **Provides** a framework for understanding socio-economic differences across the different regions of the country as they affect households.
- **Defines** an appropriate sampling framework for national assessments – e.g. of food security or poverty.
- **Offers** a practical means of comparing one area with another – for policy-making and prioritizing interventions.

Why do livelihood baselines?

To provide a 'lens' through which to view a number of problems ranging from emergency response to disaster mitigation and longer-term development. This rests upon two basic observations:

- 1) **Information** about a given area or community can only be properly interpreted if it is put into the context of how people operate their household economy.
- 2) **Interventions** can only be designed and managed in ways appropriate to local circumstances if the planner knows about local livelihoods and whether or not a proposed intervention will build upon or undermine existing strategies.

How do livelihood baselines help with vulnerability assessment?

Because we want to understand the effects on people's livelihoods and food security of different types of *hazard*, e.g. drought, floods, market failure. We want to understand their *vulnerability to* such hazards.

To understand how people are affected by a particular hazard we have to understand how they survive in non-crisis years and how they try and cope in bad years

– this is what we mean by a *livelihoods baseline analysis*.

Using the Livelihoods Baselines for Scenario Analysis

The analysis involves putting together two types of information

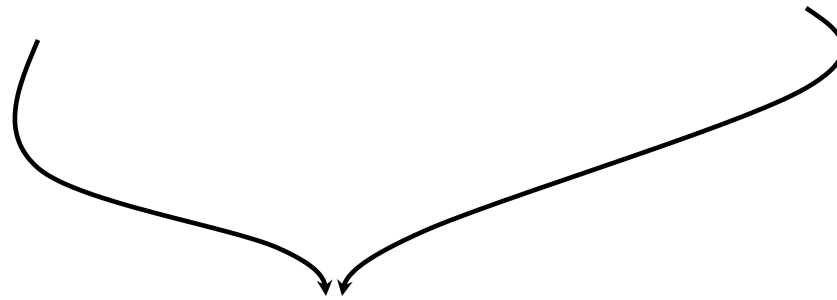
Livelihood Baseline Data

(The context)

+

Monitoring Data

(The changes)



On-going Analysis of Current and

Projected Situation and

Intervention Needs

(The outcome)

Questions that can be answered.

Development and Disaster Mitigation Planning

- What are the most appropriate policies and economic interventions to reduce vulnerability to hazards, ranging from Droughts to HIV/AIDS

Rehabilitation and Recovery

- How have people been affected by a hazard and what is required to re-establish livelihoods

Emergency Assessments

- Who is most affected, where and why. What do they need and when

Early Warning and Monitoring

- What are the key indicators and what does it mean when one of these changes

Next Steps:

Linking Vulnerability & Poverty Analysis

- The Namibia poverty line has been constructed using the cost of basic needs approach which utilises the expenditure baskets.
- The livelihood baseline profiles provide household income and expenditure data which allows for comparison and comprehensive analysis with the national poverty data.

Namibian Work plans & Activities

- Update of the livelihood baseline analysis
- Livelihood baseline assessments in remaining 10 zones
- Training of national and regional council staff in livelihood based VAA work and data analysis and storage spread sheets)
- Development of the 2009/10 marketing year, national VAA forecast to inform programming and policy

Thank you