

PLAN OF ACTION

NATIONAL

2006-2010

VOLUME 1

FOR ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN NAMIBIA



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COORDINATED BY

MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY
AND CHILD WELFARE

Directorate of Child Welfare

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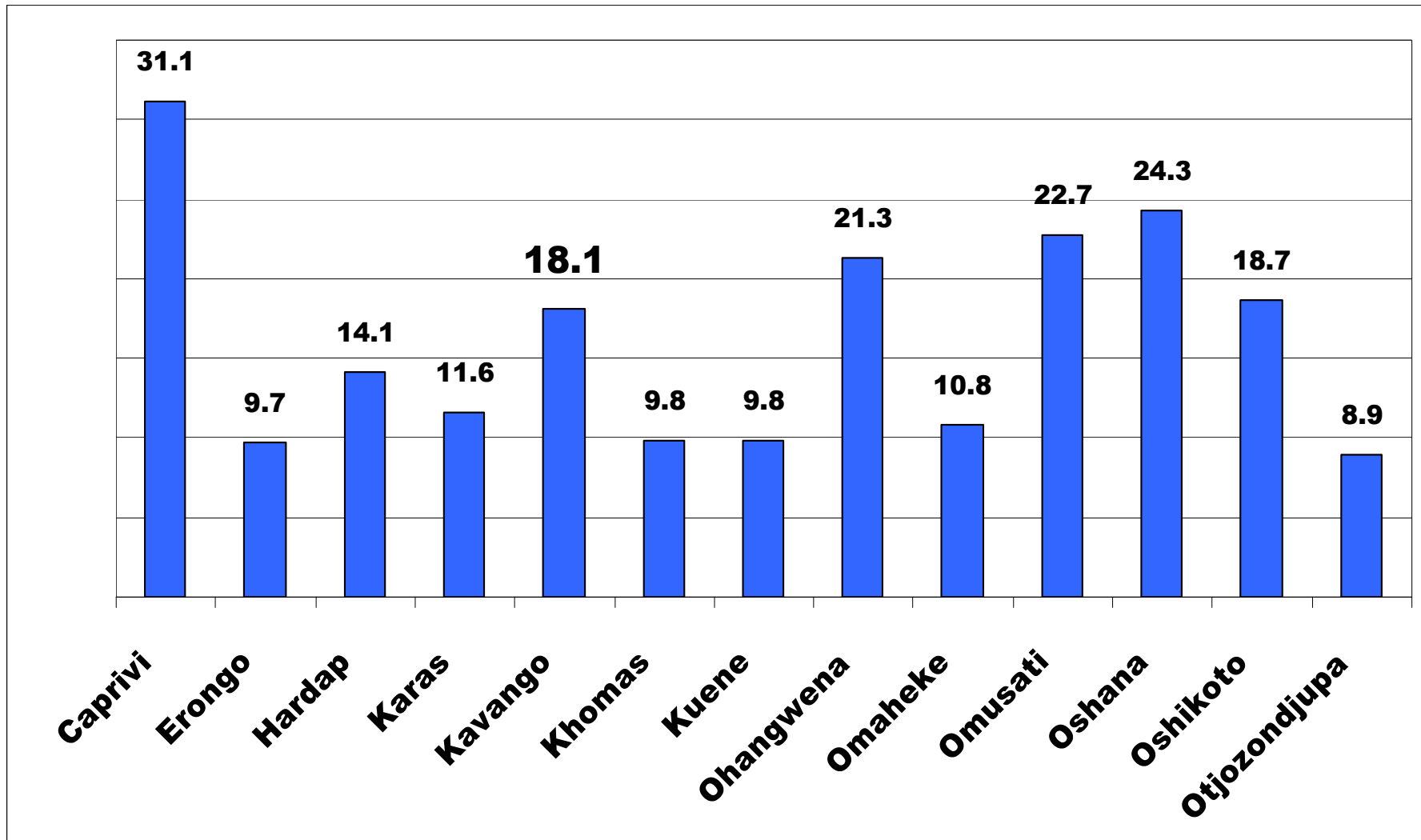
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Situation Overview

- Namibia's population is 1.8 million according to the 2001 National Housing and Population Census, with 824 116 square km
- The country's HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is 19.9% varying from 7.9% in Opuwo & Gobabis, & 39.4% in Katima Mulilo
- 155,000 Orphans (2006)
- 95 000 vulnerable children (2006)
- Total of orphans & vulnerable children 250,000



Percentage of Orphans by Region

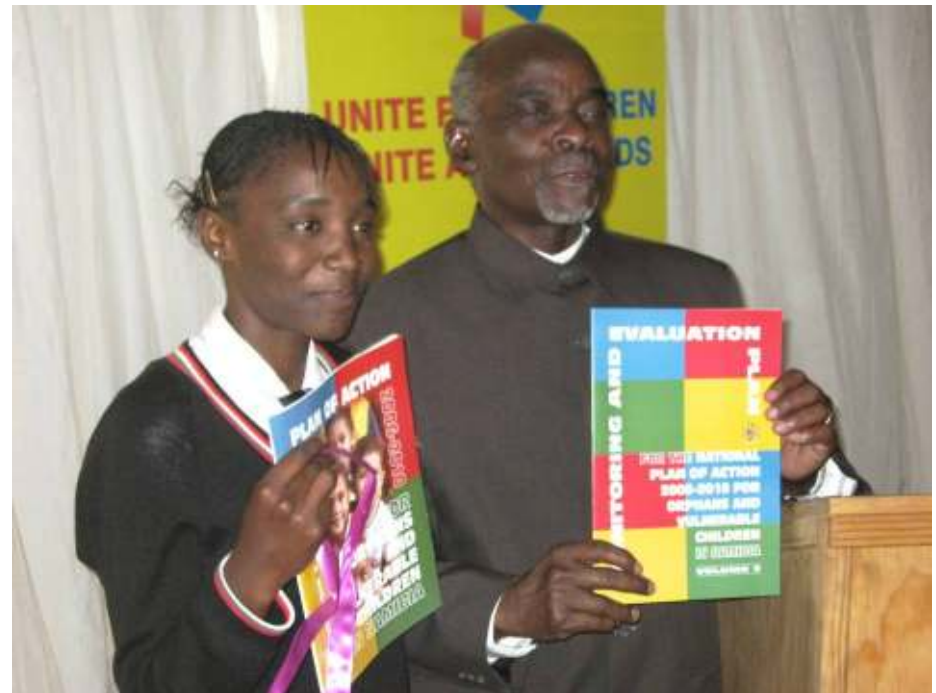


How did the NPA come about?

- Namibia like other African countries has provided care and support to its OVC through the extended family.
- Namibia set up responsive structures and modules to ensure the future of OVC which are:
 - * The Namibian Cabinet that provides leadership and direction.
 - * A dedicated Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare
 - * The National OVC Permanent Task Force that provides coordination of the programme, consisting of numerous government ministries, NGO, CBO, FBO and Dev. Partners.
- National situation analysis was undertaken to determine who was doing what in which area. Three national conferences on OVC were held that directed for the development of OVC Policy and Plan of Action.
- Global OVC Partners meeting, Geneva (Oct 2003)
- UNICEF, UNAIDS, USAID, WFP – Rapid Assessment, Analysis & Action Planning Process – 17 countries
- 2004 RAAAP commenced in Namibia - mapped existing activities, identified and costed for scaled up OVC response & drafted M&E plan

Process of developing the NPA

- 2005 – The OVC Policy was launched by His Excellency the President of the Country.
- Finalised 5-year NPA – both volume I & II, develop advocacy folder and launched by Prime Minister in October 2007



Purpose of the OVC Policy and NPA

- The OVC Policy's objective is to create a framework for protective and promoting the well-being of OVC.
- The NPA's objective is to bring together Government, civil society, and development partners to scale up coordinated responses to fulfill the unmet rights of OVC to critical services (such as education, health, protection).



NPA Strategic Areas

The NPA is organised around **five strategic areas** which have key objectives and targets to be achieved **by 2010** through specific activities:

- 1. Rights & Protection:** aims to promote the well-being of all OVC, ensuring that the basic rights of OVC and their caregivers are respected and fulfilled. **Target:** all children have access to protection services
- 2. Education:** aims for all OVC of school-going age attend school, and provides appropriate education opportunities for out-school OVC. **Target:** equal proportion of OVC versus non-OVC aged 16-17 years have completed Grade 10.



NPA Strategic Areas

3. Care & Support: aims for the basic needs of all OVC to be met, including adult care and supervision, access to social services and psychological support. By June 08, 95 000 OVC were receiving Government child welfare grants

Target: 50% of all registered OVC receive external support (economic, home-based care, educational, psychological)



NPA Strategic Areas

4. **Health & Nutrition:** OVC have an adequate nutrition and access to preventive and curative health services, including anti-retroviral treatment, both in community and health facilities.

Target: 20% reduction in under-five mortality of all children. Equal proportions of OVC to non-aged 15-17 years are not infected with HIV.

5. **Management & Networking:** A multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary institutional framework coordinates and monitors the provision of services and programs to OVC and their caregivers and promotes action research and networks share learning.

Target: Multi-sectoral coordination and monitoring of equality services to OVC are improved.



Examples of Activities in the NPA Rights & Protection

- **Popularize** the NPA by developing communication tools in various languages;
- **Finalise** and enact all relevant draft legislation on children, like the Child Status Act 2006; and Child Care and Protection Bill
- **Ensure** that OVC and their caregivers can obtain birth certificates, identity documents and any other documentation necessary to access to state assistance (this includes establishing birth registration facilities in hospitals, conducting a communication campaign to reach children for late registration);
- **Encourage** children's participation in OVC issues and decision making by various means (including support to initiatives such as the Children's Parliament).



Examples of Activities in the NPA Education

- **Ensure** that OVC who cannot afford the schooling costs are exempted from such costs;
- **Assist and support** the MOE in finalizing and implementing the National Education Sector Policy for OVC;
- **Strengthen** counseling, care and support services for OVC in all educational institutions;
- **Develop** and implement a strategy for feeding OVC who are most in need of food during weekends and holidays;
- **Target** OVC not attending school for appropriate basic education and skills training programmes.



Examples of Activities in the NPA Care & Support

- **Review and revise** social welfare grant criteria and procedures to ensure that extended families or caregivers can access appropriate social assistance;
- **Compile and disseminate** in popular form information for caregivers, OVC and the public on how to access child welfare grants;
- **Register** all homes and shelters caring for OVC;
- **Develop and adopt** mechanisms to ensure that children's opinions and wishes are expressed and taken into consideration when looking at care options;
- **Train** caregivers in home and places of safety to ensure appropriate levels of care;
- **Provide** community groups with training and assistance to increase their capacity to assist OVC.



Examples of Activities in the NPA Health & Nutrition

- **Improve** OVC access to free health services;
- **Improve** access to proper nutrition for families caring for OVC by means of training for cost-effective food production;
- **Develop** an appropriate system for referrals of OVC in need of assistance from multiple agencies;
- **Ensure** that all pregnant women access PMTCT services and that HIV positive mothers access after care for themselves and their babies;
- **Record** health and nutrition information on OVC to provide data for measuring progress on this issue.



Examples of Activities in the NPA Management & Networking

- **Develop and maintain** a national database on OVC services which includes information on all OVC interventions;
- **Maintain and report** on basic monitoring and evaluation information on the situation of OVC;
- **Develop** regional and constituency level OVC Forums and committee to increase the level of regional and local networking and service delivery, as well as to improve reporting;
- **Map** service for OVC to facilitate referrals and to prevent duplication of services;
- **Increase** the capacity of majors, municipal leaders and local authorities to initiate, expand and manage local support to OVC;
- **Develop** the capacity of the Permanent Task Force to share practices, raise awareness and involving all sectors in OVC issues.

Commitment from Ministries to achieve NPA goals

The NPA provides a road map for meeting unmet children's rights. All line ministries committed themselves to achieve this goal.

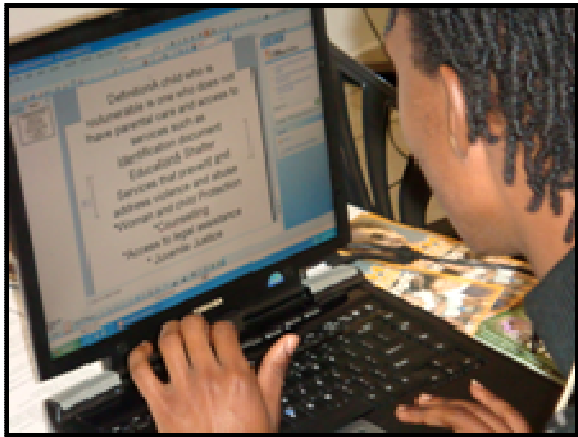
- **Agriculture, Water and Forestry:** commits to providing access to sustainable food security, clean water and sanitation for children;
- **Education:** commits to ensuring that all OVC can access quality education services;
- **Finance:** commits to ensuring that resources are available to different ministries to meet children's rights;
- **Gender Equality & Child Welfare:** coordinating the multi-sectoral response to the crisis affecting children in Namibia;
- **Health & Social Services:** ensuring that all children can access quality health care services;
- **Home Affairs & Immigration:** ensuring that birth certificates are issued to all children;

Commitment from Ministries to achieve NPA goals - continued

- **Information & Broadcasting:** commits to raising awareness on the rights of the children to protection, care and support, and lobbying for the fulfillment of children's rights;
- **Justice:** upholding the rights of the children and women as enshrined in the international and national laws and human rights instruments;
- **Labour & Social Welfare:** preventing child labour, commercial sexual exploitation, child trafficking and slavery;
- **Safety & Security:** ensuring that all children and women are protected from violence and abuse;
- **Regional & local Government, Housing and Rural Development:** improving responses to meet children's need for care, support and protection.

Regionalisation of NPA – Omaheke region

- Omaheke Convergence workshop led by Regional Council (July '07)
- Supported mapping, and work plan consultancy (Nov '07)
- Finalised work plan, and agreed to funding some key convergent activities (February '08)
- Review of implementation in beginning July '08



Regionalisation of NPA – Kavango region

- Kavango Convergence workshop led by Regional Council (July '07)
- Supported mapping, and development of 3 month convergence plan
- UNV seconded to region in June '08
- Planned review to take place in August '08



NPA updated

- Reprinting and distribution of NPA
- NPA monitoring & progress report consultancy for submission to Cabinet
- Continued support to PTF
- Popularisation process scheduled for 4-7 August in Caprivi



Implementation challenges

- Government multi-sectoral ownership of NPA
 1. Brainstorm how to increase multi-sectoral participation e.g. government and Stakeholders
 2. Involvement of National Planning Commission: Bureau of Statistics
- Financial Resources

I THANK YOU