



USAID | **NAMIBIA**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Unrestricted Version

STRATEGY STATEMENT

This Strategy Statement for Namibia was assembled by USAID/Namibia. This is a USAID planning document and does not contain budget information approved by the U.S. Government. Any budget information contained herein is for illustrative purposes only.

Additional information on the attached can be obtained from Rosalind Best in USAID/AFR/SA.

Release Date: 05/04/2006

USAID NAMIBIA STRATEGY STATEMENT

Program Rationale

Namibia is a 15-year old nation facing two dramatically different possible futures. One is bright, hopeful and promising: Namibia as a country that's "getting it right", an emerging success story with the potential to offer a beleaguered continent a beacon of hope. In fact, Namibia has made impressive progress governing justly, investing in people, and encouraging economic freedom as evidenced by her selection as one of only three out of 29 candidate Lower Middle-Income Countries (LMIC) selected as eligible to submit a compact proposal for Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) assistance. The other scenario is foreboding: Namibia as a fractious country where progress is eroded and stability undermined by the divisive legacies of colonialism and apartheid, by the newness and consequent shakiness of her democratic institutions and culture, demographic pressures and unemployment, and by a horrific HIV/AIDS epidemic. To help Namibia achieve her great promise and potential, the USAID strategy is to help foster a healthier, better educated, and more productive population and increase the effectiveness of local institutions in promoting a vibrant private sector and democratic governance.¹

To successfully achieve transformational development, Namibia must address underlying fragility flashpoints, which include:

- A severe HIV/AIDS epidemic: as is evidenced by an overall prevalence rate of 19.7 percent among pregnant women attending antenatal clinics.² By 2021, approximately 250,000 Namibian children will be orphaned (75% due to HIV/AIDS). With its small population and limited pool of skilled professionals, Namibia has less capacity to absorb the socio-economic consequences of the epidemic than many other highly affected countries with larger populations.
- The world's worst income disparity: UNDP estimates the Gini coefficient measuring income disparity in Namibia as the highest in the world at 70.7 on a scale of 100 with 0 representing perfect equality.
- Severe poverty: Half of the country's population lives below the poverty line³ and survives on ten percent of national income.⁴
- Very high youth unemployment: Sixty-seven percent of 15 to 19 year olds are unemployed⁵ and by 2021 a third of Namibia's population under age 18 will be orphaned⁶. These factors contribute to a risk of social marginalization and could enable this demographic group to become a source of instability if they become radicalized.
- A legacy of colonialism and apartheid: Namibia continues to contend with the integration of ex-combatants and detainees after a 26-year war for independence, decades of colonial and apartheid-era under-investment in education and social services, an economy heavily reliant on the extraction and export of primary resources with little value added and limited potential for promoting equitable economic growth, and an under-educated and low-skilled workforce.
- Land Reform: The government continues to grapple with the issue of balancing contending land reform interests between and among minority commercial landowners and communal subsistence

¹ The Strategic Framework for Africa establishes two operational goals for transformational development countries: (1) Foster a healthier, better educated, and more productive population, and (2) Increase the effectiveness of African institutions in promoting a vibrant private sector and democratic governance.

² Republic of Namibia, Ministry of Health and Social Services (MOHSS), *Report of the 2004 National HIV Sentinel Survey*.

³ CIA World Factbook, 2002 estimate.

⁴ UNDP, 2000/2001 estimate.

⁵ Labour Resource and Research Institute (LaRRI), "Namibia: Labour Market and Socio-economic Indicators," 2003

⁶ United Nations Children's Fund "Draft country programme document, Namibia." Page 3. E/ICEF/2005/P/L.1.

farmers while addressing socio-economic, environmental, commercial, ethnic, and political factors within the constitutional framework.

These challenges illustrate Namibia's pressing development needs in spite of its classification by the World Bank as a LMIC based on GDP per capita. GDP per capita is a crude and inaccurate measure of human welfare and development for the vast majority of Namibians. More accurate and equitable measures would include life expectancy of 49 years (comparable to Mali and below that of Eritrea or Sudan) and the 2005 ranking on the human development index (HDI) as 125th out of 177 countries.

Namibia's economy remains heavily dependent on the extractive industries, of which mining is paramount as mining products constitute up to half of Namibia's annual export earnings. Among mining products, diamond mining occupies a central role within the industry and for the government. Since 1994 the government of Namibia has had a 50 percent partnership with De Beers mining under a joint corporation, NamDeb, which produces more than 80 percent of the country's diamonds. The government receives between 70 – 80 percent of NamDeb's pre-tax profits, and tax and non-tax revenues made up nearly 15 percent of government revenue in 2002 – 03. The Namibian government and NamDeb are quite transparent in regards to their revenues in comparison to other countries. Among key diamond producing countries, Namibia's government is the only one that reports diamond revenues in publicly available government revenue accounts and the value added from diamonds in national accounts.⁷

The United States has a significant national interest in helping Namibians fight HIV/AIDS, promote development, and strengthen democratic consolidation so that in addition to enhancing its own national security, Namibia continues to contribute to regional peace, security, and stability as a model for other African nations. Regionally Namibia helps to improve trade integration and expand regional ties to U.S. markets, contributes peacekeeping troops to missions around the world, and promotes environmental protection and biodiversity conservation through innovative community-based strategies and trans-boundary resource management. USAID programs also contribute to the U.S. Government's strategic objective to advance sustainable development and global interests as defined in the State-USAID Joint Strategic Plan.⁸

In particular, USAID programs in Namibia seek to accelerate the economic, social, and political empowerment of historically disadvantaged Namibians (the majority of the population) by supporting activities to improve basic education in grades one through seven; increase the environmental and economic benefits of community-based natural resource management; curb the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS; and strengthen democracy and governance. Through these programs, USAID extends the aims of transformational development to address three global issues – HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB), and biodiversity conservation. Deemed Agency-wide "special concerns," programs addressing these areas complement transformational development while operating under their own justification and performance criteria.

To complement traditional development assistance funds, USAID in Namibia benefits from focused U.S. Government initiatives addressing two important challenges: education and TB. With resources from the Africa Education Initiative, USAID programs improve teacher training and expand access to education, especially for girls. With one of the world's highest reported TB case notification rates (rivaled only by Swaziland and Botswana), the burden of TB in Namibia is compounded by the severe dual TB/HIV epidemic. With priority funding for TB, USAID strengthens the capacity of the National TB Control Program, supports the development and dissemination of national TB guidelines, and improves access to essential palliative care, treatment, and support for those that are TB-HIV co-infected. In addition to these two initiatives, Namibia is a focus country under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (Emergency Plan) and, as such, is receiving almost \$50 million annually for HIV/AIDS prevention, care,

⁷ Boer, Martin and Robin Sherbourne. *Managing Diamond Dependency: Should Namibia Risk More to Gain More?* Institute for Public Policy Research. Research Report No. 6, April 2004.

⁸ This State-USAID strategic objective includes strategic goals that advance the growth of democracy and good governance; strengthen world economic growth, development, and stability; and improve health, education, environment, and other conditions for the global population.

and treatment. USAID/Namibia is responsible for roughly half of these funds. In the area of democracy and governance, USAID's program is complemented by technical assistance that will soon be provided by the U.S. Treasury Department to the Namibian Inland Revenue Department within the Ministry of Finance to improve tax administration.

In preparation for the development of USAID/Namibia's 2004-2010 Country Strategic Plan (CSP), USAID/Namibia consulted widely with government, business, the non-governmental organization (NGO) and faith-based organization (FBO) community, and with donor partners. As the Strategic Objectives (SOs) and timeframe outlined in this Strategy Statement largely correspond with those proposed in the approved 2004-2010 CSP, this Strategy Statement continues to reflect indigenous expertise in the design and implementation of programs and also supports the nation's development aspirations as outlined by the national *Vision 2030* document defining the country's agenda for prosperity, harmony, peace, and political stability.

USAID also continues to work actively with other donors in key development areas to ensure complementarity and avoid redundancy. In education, USAID's comparative advantage lies in its work in basic education due to its longstanding engagement in supporting primary education, and actively participates in the education sector donor coordination forum. USAID has been the primary donor working in community based natural resource management (CBNRM) over the last 13 years. USAID coordinates with a UNDP-administered Global Environmental Facility project to link protected areas with USAID-supported conservancies and USAID's program is designed to complement the World Bank's Integrated Community-Based Ecosystem Management project and leverage resources. The U.S. government is the largest donor in HIV/AIDS, and USAID works in conjunction with other U.S. Government agencies to coordinate activities and resources, as well as with the Ministry of Health and Social Services and United Nations agencies in Namibia to coordinate the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. USAID plays a key role in coordinating donor actions in the democracy and governance sector in Namibia, which is also supported by the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, and Germany.

USAID also seeks to leverage funds and build synergies with other public and private sector actors where relevant. This includes the engagement of multinational corporations and professional bodies in public-private alliances (i.e., Global Development Alliances), such as activities to increase access to and use of information and communication technologies by teachers and students involving the Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership, SchoolNet Namibia, the Microsoft Corporation, the National Institute of Education Development, WorldTeach, Peace Corps, and the American Federation of Teachers, among others.

Additional resources for the Government of Namibia may become available through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) as Namibia was selected in November 2005 as an MCA eligible country. In February 2006, the MCC and the Namibian Government will begin to discuss the preparation of a proposal to the MCC. While it is too early to know what Namibia will propose, based on the MCA's stated mission of "poverty reduction through economic growth", it is reasonable to assume Namibia will propose using MCA assistance to address some of its economic growth challenges. Economic growth activities supported with MCA funds would help fill the critical development gap caused by the elimination of USAID's Economic Growth Strategic Objective (discussed further below) and complement continuing USAID/Namibia's programs. USAID programs in Democracy and Governance, Basic Education, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, and HIV/AIDS will enhance MCA funded activities by helping Namibia address areas outside of economic growth that are critical for successful transformational development. Through the synergistic effect of both MCA and bilateral programs, "transformational development" is indeed possible.

Program Structure

USAID programs in Namibia support both of the broad goals (see page 1) and several of the transformational development areas laid out by the Strategic Framework for Africa. Programs over the next three to five years aim at achieving these goals in Namibia and moving the country along the development continuum toward improved standards of living, quality of life, and participatory governance.

Activities supported by USAID help the government accomplish objectives in key transformational development areas and build the necessary capacity that will eventually enable the country to pursue economic growth and fight poverty independent of traditional foreign aid – the long-term vision of transformational development in the Strategic Framework for Africa.⁹

Towards these ends, USAID programs are organized under the following four interrelated and mutually reinforcing strategic objectives (SO).

1. **Increase capacity of the education system to give learners the foundations for health and livelihood.** (*Year of initial obligation – 2004, Estimated year of final obligation under this Strategy Statement – 2009*). This strategic objective directly supports Framework Goal 1 and its education objectives to (1) promote equitable access to quality basic education and (2) improve access to productivity-increasing job skills.¹⁰

Namibia has an urgent need for citizens with market-relevant skills who are able to contribute to the economic and political development of the country. The combined impact of education policies under apartheid and the HIV/AIDS epidemic weaken Namibia's human resource base. While access to education has improved since Independence, problems of quality, content, and retention continue to disadvantage a large portion of the population. Improving education is particularly important in light of the country's social demographics and the strategic importance of preparing youth – especially the growing number of orphans and other vulnerable children – for secure livelihoods and civic participation.

USAID's support to the Namibian education sector targets primary schools (Grades 1-7) in six historically underserved northern regions of Namibia. USAID's programs are designed to help improve the quality of education by enhancing teacher instructional skills in English, math, and science and by expanding the use of learner-centered education and continuous assessment techniques. USAID also is supporting the Ministry of Education's (MOE) efforts to devolve resources and responsibilities to the regional level by assisting the MOE to develop procedures to implement decentralization policies and in training regional and school administrators to fulfill their new responsibilities. Complementing assistance for school administrators at the local level, USAID also supports efforts to expand parental and community involvement in school decision-making.

Using funds from the President's Emergency Plan, USAID is working to increase the capacity of the basic education sector to cope with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In 2002 it was estimated that one in seven educators was infected with HIV.¹¹ USAID is helping to increase the capacity of the MOE to expand and improve HIV/AIDS prevention and support programs for the education workforce and develop and implement strategies to decrease teacher absenteeism due to HIV/AIDS. USAID also is working to increase the capacity of the MOE to develop policies and programs to increase the numbers of OVC attending school. USAID supports the incorporation of age-appropriate primary school HIV/AIDS information into curricula and work to improve the delivery of life skills training so that learners can make informed and realistic life choices about their future education, their work, and their health.

2. **Improve rural livelihoods through sustainable integrated natural resources management.** (*Year of initial obligation – 2004, Estimated year of final obligation under this Strategy Statement – 2009*). This strategic objective directly supports Framework Goals 1 and 2 through the three environment objectives of the Framework: (1) improve natural resource management and conservation across diverse landscapes, (2) increase sustainable production, marketing, and trade of

⁹ USAID/Namibia will continue to monitor the formulation of Namibia's MCC compact proposal to consider how ongoing and future USAID programs address performance and development gaps.

¹⁰ This SO is associated with two USAID program components: *Achieve equitable access to quality basic education* and *Reduce transmission and impact of HIV/AIDS*.

¹¹ "The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Education in Namibia." MBESC, MHETEC, June 2002.

natural resource-based products and services, and (3) expand equitable natural resource governance and promote management of competing claims on resources.¹²

USAID helps Namibian conservancies established on communal lands manage wildlife and benefit economically through increased live game sales, meat sales, trophy hunting, employment and tourism. USAID programs promote and strengthen effective community-based governance mechanisms for the sound management of natural resources. Based on lessons learned through earlier work, USAID also supports conservancies to undertake a new generation of activities that apply principles of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) to a broader range of natural resources encompassing forests, fisheries, grazing lands, indigenous plants, and water. This includes strengthening inter-ministerial coordination at all levels to ensure harmonization of natural resource management policies, approaches and interventions across programs funded by the GRN and donors, while taking into consideration special circumstances faced by a conservancy.

USAID support helps extend the benefits derived from CBNRM activities to individuals and communities through income generating activities created by increased tourism and by diversified micro- and medium-sized enterprises utilizing natural resources. Private sector participation in the development of conservancy business practices has been a major factor contributing to the sustainability of several conservancies. Conservancies monitor biophysical indicators to support their planning and decision-making, helping ensure the recovery of local wildlife populations and the sustainable use of other natural resources (e.g., indigenous plants, forests, fish), thereby contributing to biodiversity conservation, an Agency-wide "special concern."

USAID support also helps strengthen democratic governance at the conservancy and national levels through capacity building at the conservancy level, formation of conservancy associations, and development of more cost-effective and efficient support systems for conservancies. Conservancy associations adopt a landscape approach to natural resource management attending to both natural systems and social networks that come into play across the landscape. Given the widespread impact of HIV/AIDS across Namibia, conservancies also serve as points of contact for information dissemination of messages and materials, community mobilization and programs regarding HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care, reaching some of the country's most remote communities that would otherwise lack such services. These activities, taken together, will provide more and better opportunities for improving rural livelihoods, promote more effective management of Namibia's natural resources, and enhance civil society through strengthened conservancy committees and NGOs.

USAID also will continue to support the sustainable resettlement process as part of the land reform process of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement (MLR). The Ministry's land reform program has focused on acquiring and redistributing land through various mechanisms, including a land resettlement scheme and an affirmative action process. USAID support targets the beneficiaries of the land resettlement process and has two main objectives: 1) the identification, analysis and presentation of resettlement options; and, 2) the application and piloting of post-resettlement development support approaches with resettled families. This initiative focuses on the applicability of lessons learned through the CBNRM program, based on the collective, efficient management of land and other natural resources, and increased benefits and returns to individuals.

3. Reduce the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS and TB in Namibia. *(Year of initial obligation for HIV/AIDS Emergency Plan Program - 2004, Estimated year of final obligation under current Emergency Plan Strategy – 2008. Year of initial obligation for TB activities – 2005, Estimated year of*

¹² This SO is associated with two USAID program components: *Protect and increase the assets and livelihoods of the poor* and *Improve sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation*.

final obligation under this Strategy Statement - 2009). This strategic objective directly supports Framework Goal 1 and its health objective to reduce transmission and impact of HIV/AIDS.¹³

The HIV/AIDS epidemic, coupled with dramatic levels of TB and exacerbated by poverty, is devastating the country's most valuable asset, its human resources. Nationwide, an estimated 210,000 people (10% of the total population) are infected with HIV and as the epidemic has escalated, life expectancy at birth has dropped from 61 years in 1991 to 49 years in 2004.¹⁴ To help Namibia curb the spread of the disease and mitigate its impact, USAID supports a program under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief that encompasses prevention, care, support and treatment, including activities to address HIV-TB co-infection, strengthen referral systems, and address TB palliative care needs. In addition to interventions explicitly focused on health concerns, USAID supports cross-sectoral efforts addressing HIV/AIDS through education, natural resource management (conservancies), and governance. Specific interventions are also designed to address youth as a high-risk sub-population. Sentinel surveillance studies have estimated that 10 percent of youth under 20 years of age and 18.2 percent of those between 20 and 24 years of age are HIV-positive.¹⁵ USAID supports interventions targeting youth with age-appropriate messages and programs, promoting the delay of sexual debut among youth between the ages of 8-13 and encouraging older sexually active youth between the ages of 14-24 to be faithful, reduce partners, and use condoms. USAID also supports the integration of existing curricula on HIV/AIDS prevention into life skills education nationally. More detailed information about USAID's HIV/AIDS programming can be found in the U.S. Government's Five-Year HIV/AIDS Strategy - 2004-2008 (please see Annex 1 for the Five-Year HIV/AIDS Strategy for Namibia) and annual Country Operational Plan for Namibia. Both documents are submitted to and approved by the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC).

In addition to HIV/AIDS, Namibia suffers the one of the world's highest TB notification rates with 593 cases of TB recorded per 100,000 Namibians.¹⁶ Tuberculosis is a particularly grave threat under the circumstances since the disease is the principle cause of death in people living with AIDS in Namibia. The World Health Organization estimates that 60 percent of TB patients in Namibia are HIV-positive and that 115,000 people in the country are dually infected with TB and HIV. USAID provides technical assistance to the National TB Control Program to improve TB control, prevention, and support, and improve detection, surveillance, and treatment adherence capacity in support of the Government's Medium Term Plan for TB Control. USAID also assists efforts to provide routine counseling and support, expand training of health care workers, and strengthen management of TB-HIV co-infection.

4. **Improve interaction between civil society and selected government institutions.** (*Year of initial obligation – 2004, Estimated year of final obligation under this Strategy Statement – 2009*). This strategic objective directly supports Framework Goals 1 and 2 and several of their democracy and governance objectives including (1) increase civil society's effectiveness in advancing reforms, (2) reduce corruption and strengthen the anti-corruption environment, (3) strengthen the institutions of democratic governance, and (4) increase participation of marginalized populations in decision-making.¹⁷

USAID's program supports the joint State-USAID goal of advancing the growth of democracy and good governance, including civil society, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and religious freedom. Focused on people, Parliament, policy, and participation in political processes, the USAID program capitalizes upon widespread commitment by government and other stakeholders to democratic principles, values, rights, and responsibilities enshrined in the Namibian constitution. It

¹³ This SO is associated with two USAID program components: *Reduce transmission and impact of HIV/AIDS and Prevent and control infectious disease of major importance* .

¹⁴ U.S. Government Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief: Namibia Five-Year HIV/AIDS Strategy, 2004-2008.

¹⁵ Republic of Namibia, MOHSS, *Report of the 2004 National HIV Sentinel Survey*.

¹⁶ World Health Organization Global TB Report, 2005.

¹⁷ This SO is associated with three USAID program components: *Strengthen the legislative function/legal framework, Strengthen civil society, and Strengthen democratic national governance institutions*.

aims to motivate and enable all Namibians to make full use of the machinery of democratic governance at their disposal by focusing on the interface between civil society and elected representatives in the Parliament and Regional Councils. It supports parliamentary training and constituency outreach, as well as civic advocacy activities, helping to ensure that democratic practices take root in the new Parliament installed in March 2005. Engaged and capable civil society organizations that interface regularly with elected representatives will help promote greater transparency regarding utilization of the country's natural resources and governance of extractive industries, budget allocations, and other critical policy decisions. USAID support also has enabled the establishment of the Namibia Democracy Support Center (NDSC), a coalition of parliamentarians and representatives of government, civil society, and higher education who through the NDSC will work to facilitate the participation of civic organizations in the legislative process.

The Namibian government, under President Pohamba's leadership, has placed integrity and accountability high on its priority list, along with the elimination of mismanagement and fraud. Anti-corruption legislation is in place to combat public corruption. An independent anti-corruption commission recently was established that also will complement and support existing institutions such as the Ombudsman's Office and the Attorney General. USAID is supporting a national "Zero Tolerance for Corruption" campaign. This program will provide training and technical assistance to key organizations and government institutions to improve integrity systems and increase the effectiveness of accountability procedures.

Anticipated Program Results

USAID programs in Namibia during the lifespan of the SOs described above are expected to contribute directly to the goals and objectives of the Strategic Framework for Africa and the transformational development of Namibia.

Through support for **education**, primary schools in the disadvantaged North will be enabled to independently plan, implement, evaluate and sustain qualitative improvements in basic education (math, science, and English) and in doing so better prepare young Namibians to play productive roles in an increasingly competitive marketplace. There will be: (1) enhanced capacity of the Ministry of Education to sustain nationwide education reforms known to improve the quality of basic education; (2) establishment of sustainable policies and programs to support the education of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC); (3) institutionalization of a sustainable HIV/AIDS prevention program to reach over 600,000 students and teachers; (4) increased knowledge and skills among primary school teachers to deliver quality education to learners; and (5) decentralization of education services in the northern regions.

Through programs addressing the **environment**, USAID-supported conservancies will have the independent capacity to manage natural resources prudently and profitably and in doing so improve rural livelihoods. There will be: (1) increased percentage of Namibia's land mass under a sustainable system of natural resource management; (2) enhanced biodiversity, including endangered species such as cheetah and black rhino as well as a variety of plants and veldt products; (3) bolstered citizen representation by conservancy committees and increased government accountability to the rural poor; and (4) increased income and employment from conservancy enterprises, leading to more conservancies becoming self-financing; and (5) increased use of Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) principles and approaches in land settlement.

Programs addressing **HIV/AIDS** will have contributed to prevention, care, and treatment goals and targets as established under the Emergency Plan and reflected in the annual Country Operational Plan submitted to OGAC. As of March 2005, over 130,000 people have been provided with care and support services, exceeding the initial target of 115,000 people reached by the end of 2008. Over 13,000 people are currently on ART and at current rates of treatment Namibia will exceed its 2008 treatment target of 23,000 people by the end of Fiscal Year 2006. Furthermore, USAID is working to strengthen capacity in the public, private and NGO sectors to plan, implement, monitor, evaluate and finance the national HIV/AIDS program and as a result, Namibia's ability to independently achieve and sustain HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment coverage levels will be strengthened. Additional gains are expected in improved

detection and treatment for **TB** and increased HIV/AIDS awareness and livelihood options through non-health interventions.

Programs in the area of **democracy and governance** will have helped institutionalize a sustainable capacity to meet the organizational development needs of Parliament and civil society organizations in the Namibian Democracy Support Center, contributing to the consolidation and maturation of Namibia's young democracy. Specifically, USAID will have (1) supported the creation of the first-ever indigenous "democracy support center" in Namibia to sustain nascent democratic practices and institutions; and (2) contributed to the institutionalization of a nationwide anti-corruption program.

These anticipated results, coupled with Namibia's responsible political-economic framework, would help move the nation along the development continuum toward the point where the government could eventually pursue democratic, sustainable growth and poverty reduction without dependence on foreign aid – the long-term vision of transformational development in the Strategic Framework for Africa. However, aiming for such program outcomes is not without risk and success will depend on a variety of factors including successful management of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, continued consolidation of democratic governance, and peaceful resolution of stresses generated by extreme disparities in income and other assets. For the foreseeable future, HIV/AIDS will continue to seriously challenge the human and institutional capacity of Namibia, requiring measures that build the necessary skills needed by government, civil society, and local communities to withstand the social and economic impacts of the epidemic. Such measures would augment and reinforce programs and skills-building measures focused on prevention, care, and treatment implemented through the President's Emergency Plan.

Cross-cutting Themes

Across sub-Saharan Africa, the impact of HIV/AIDS, gender inequality, democratic governance and youth represent cross-cutting themes that directly affect the direction and effectiveness of programming. In Namibia, USAID programs are designed to address these themes broadly in the following ways:

HIV/AIDS is a cross-cutting issue that affects all aspects of Namibian society, demanding attention from all sectors for a comprehensive and effective response. Complementing programs implemented mainly in the health sector under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, USAID seeks to curb the spread of HIV and mitigate the impact of the epidemic through every programmatic means at its disposal, including the implementation of wrap around activities that support linkages between HIV/AIDS and other sectors. These activities include:

- increasing support to the education sector to reach learners, teachers, and other Ministry staff with prevention and impact mitigation programs, including programs to help keep orphans and vulnerable children in school;
- expanding efforts to help conservancies develop prevention and care programs, capitalizing on the remote location of many conservancies to help provide information on counseling and treatment to hard-to-reach communities; and,
- strengthening the Parliament's representation, legislation, and oversight capabilities with respect to HIV/AIDS issues and improve the ability of civil society to advocate on behalf of those infected and affected by the disease.

Gender: USAID seeks to promote gender equality in all of its programs. In the education sector, enrollment rates for girls and young women are on par with that for boys and young men at all levels of education but have not resulted in commensurate levels of female empowerment. Among other initiatives, USAID support for improved teacher training helps reduce gender-based biases that can negatively affect education outcomes for girls. Under USAID's community-based natural resource management program, women comprise 30 percent of conservancy management committee members and are assuming management positions at program-facilitated lodges. USAID's HIV/AIDS program directly aims to help save women's lives, strengthening programs supporting Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) and Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) by integrating them with family planning and other reproductive health services for HIV-positive women. Interventions promoting positive

gender norms, role models, and healthy practices in youth-focused programs and community-based interventions help develop skills needed by youth and adults to establish safe sexual relationships and prevent gender-based violence. Gender aspects of the epidemic are also addressed by efforts to strengthen support systems for women (the primary caregivers of the growing number of sick and orphaned) and ensure female participation in training offered to medical professionals. USAID's democracy and governance program promotes gender equality by ensuring that women's participation and issues of equity are integrated into all activities conducted under the civic and voter education program. Working with both civil society and elected officials USAID encourages increased policy attention to issues affecting the status of women in Namibia and supports the pursuit of constitutional guarantees of equality.

Democratic governance: While Namibia successfully conducted national elections in 2004, the results led to a large number of new legislators with limited political experience, a fragmented opposition, and a strengthened Parliamentary majority. As a result, the near-term capacity of Parliament to effectively exercise its oversight and administrative functions vis a vis the executive has been jeopardized. Given the short history of national political institutions since Independence, the Namibian government and civil society are challenged to consolidate and promote democratic governance and accountability as the country's representative political institutions and processes continue to evolve. USAID's programs in this area, as described above, are designed to address these needs by supporting Parliamentary capacity building, promoting accountability through anti-corruption initiatives, and facilitating the development of a constructive and coordinated dialogue between Parliament and civil society.

Youth: In Namibia, where roughly 20 percent of the population is between 15 and 24 years of age,¹⁸ youth carry a significant share of the weight of current development challenges. They suffer high unemployment rates (67 percent unemployed among those between 15 and 19 years of age, 59 percent among those between 20 and 24 years of age)¹⁹ and limited economic opportunities, contributing to a risk of social marginalization. Youth under 15 years of age (a further 42 percent of total population)²⁰ include the rising number of OVC as a consequence of HIV/AIDS. Sixteen percent of all children under age 15 have lost one or both parents to the epidemic.²¹ It is projected that by 2021 approximately 250,000 Namibian children -- one in three children -- will be orphaned (75% due to HIV/AIDS).²² Many of these youth have few, if any, social supports and safety networks, and are prone to extremely insecure livelihoods on the fringes of society. Such pressures drive some youth toward economic or social behavior that put them at risk of HIV infection. USAID's programs in education and HIV/AIDS are designed to help provide youth with life skills that will prepare them for a healthy and successful future.

Environmental Analysis: In accordance with requirements in Sections 118 and 119 of the Foreign Assistance Act, an Environmental Analysis was conducted in preparation for Namibia's 2004-2010 Country Strategic Plan (CSP). In addition, the Mission Environmental Officer updated the Environmental Analysis in preparation for the Strategy Statement. (Please see Annex 3 for the 2005 Environmental Analysis Update and Annex 4 for the Environmental Analysis included in the 2004-2010 CSP.)

Regional Aspects

Given the lack of economic growth (EG) funds available for Namibia, the Mission had to discontinue its EG SO and EG activities are scheduled to end in September 2006. However, given the very high rate of unemployment and underemployment (about 60 percent), severe poverty, and extreme income inequality in Namibia, there is a continuing need to promote employment and income generation through the Small and Medium-scale Enterprise (SME) and Tourism sectors, and through increased regional and external trade – the focus areas of past EG activities. To fill the void, USAID will rely on increased involvement and

¹⁸ Namibia CSO, *Population and Housing Census 2001*.

¹⁹ Labor Resource and Research Institute (LaRRI), "Namibia: Labor Market and Socio-economic Indicators," 2003.

²⁰ Population Reference Bureau, *2004 World Population Data Sheet*.

²¹ UNICEF/WHO Consultative Meeting on Strengthening Pediatric and Adult Care in Community Home Based Care in Africa, Cape Town: Richard Bauer, November 22-25, 2004.

²² UNICEF, "A Situational Analysis of Orphan Children in Namibia," April 2002.

collaboration with the Southern Africa Regional Trade Program (SRTP) funded by USAID's Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA), based in Botswana.²³ Currently, SRTP assists Namibia in the following areas: assistance on Free Trade Area and other agreement negotiations, certification of grape and meat exports to the U.S; developing an "investor road map" for Namibia; and building the capacity of the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Source of Origin Rules and related Customs issues. USAID will increasingly depend on the STRP to address specific gaps related to SME capacity building, trade, and exports (regional and to the U.S. under AGOA), as well as other emerging EG issues related to and complementing the Mission's program portfolio.

In addition to the trade expansion program, RCSA manages three other regional initiatives supporting Namibian development. An integrated river basin management activity helps strengthen a regional river basin commission and develops the capacity of communities to manage water resources in a sustainable manner. The Partnerships in Electoral Process activity strengthens democratic processes and promotes the rule of law and respect for human rights. Namibia is also one of the countries served through a GDA with the United Nations Association of the USA that raises funds to support local NGO work that benefits OVC.

²³ In addition, USAID will continue to address relevant issues of skills training, capacity building, and promotion of economic growth through activities under the education and CBNRM strategic objectives described previously.