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Technical Assistance

Assessment of Livelihood Strategies to Promote Food Security among People Living with HIV/AIDS in Namibia

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Table of Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms.....	4
Currency Conversion (as of March 2010)	5
LIFT Technical Assistance Mechanism	6
Executive Summary.....	7
1. Background	14
2. Situation Analysis	15
2.1 HIV/AIDS in Namibia	16
2.2 Food Security	16
2.2.1 Food Availability.....	17
2.2.2 Food Access.....	19
2.2.3 Food Utilization and Nutrition	20
2.3 Economic/Livelihood Security.....	21
2.4 Legal and Social Protection.....	24
2.4.1 Legal and Access Issues.....	25
2.4.2 Access to Social Services	27
2.4.3 Cash Transfers.....	27
2.4.4 Access to Savings Mechanisms	29
2.4.5 Insurance.....	30
3. Livelihood Priorities and Strategies	31
3.1 Strategic Opportunities.....	34
Strategic Opportunity #1: Provision of Temporary Livelihood Support	34
Strategic Opportunity #2: Protection of Emerging Livelihoods.....	38
Strategic Opportunity #3: Promotion of Enduring Livelihood Opportunities	46
3.2 Options Not Recommended	65
Appendix I. Resources Reviewed	67
Appendix II. Stakeholders Involved	72
Appendix III. Linkage Opportunities	74

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
ARV	Anti-Retroviral Drugs
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
BEC	Bicycle Empowerment Center
BEN	Bicycle Empowerment Network
BIG	Basic Income Grant
BMI	Body Mass Index
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CAA	Catholic AIDS Action
CAFO	Church Alliance for Orphans
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
CESP	Community Enterprise Support Project
CRIAA SA-DC	Centre for Research Information Action in Africa, South Africa
DAPP	Development Aid from People to People
DED/GTZ	German Development Service
EWC	Eudafano Women’s Cooperative
FABRIC	Community Faith-Based Regional Initiative for Orphans and Vulnerable Children
FANTA-2	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance II Project
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FBO	Faith-Based Organization
FBP	Food by Prescription
FHI	Family Health International
FIELD	Financial Integration, Economic Leveraging and Broad-Based Dissemination
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
HDD	Household Dietary Diversity
HDDS	Household Dietary Diversity Score
HFIAS	Household Food Insecurity Access Scale
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
INP	Indigenous Natural Products
IPPR	Institute for Public Policy Research
KAYEC	Katutura Youth Enterprise Centre
LaRRI	Labour Resource and Research Institute
LIFE Plus	Living in a Finite Environment Plus
LIFT	Livelihoods and Food Security Technical Assistance
LWA	Leader with Associates
MAWF	Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Forestry
MAWRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development
MCA-N	Millennium Challenge Account – Namibia
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation
MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism

MFI	Microfinance Institution
MGECEW	Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare
MoHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
NAB	Namibian Agronomic Board
NACOBTA	Namibian Community Based Tourism Association
NACS	Nutrition Assessment, Counseling and Support
NACSO	Namibian Association of Community Based Natural Resource Management Support Organizations
NANASO	National Network of AIDS Service Organizations
NAMMPA	Namibian Mahangu Millers & Producers Association
NBRI	National Botanical Research Institute
NCA	Northern Communal Areas
NCCI	Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry
NDHS	Namibia Demographic and Health Survey
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NICE	Namibian International Centre of Excellence
NLFS	Namibia Labour Force Survey
NMSP	Namibian Market Share Promotion
NNFU	Namibian National Farmers Union
NRC	Namibia Resource Consultants
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NTA	Namibia Training Authority
OAP	Old Age Pension
OHA	USAID Global Health Bureau's Office of HIV/AIDS
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PEPFAR	U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PIN	People in Need
PLHIV	People Living with HIV/AIDS
RISE	Rural Institute For Social Empowerment
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USG	United States Government
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Associations
VTC	Vocational Training Center
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas
WAD	Women's Action for Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WFTO	World Fair Trade Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Currency Conversion (as of March 2010)

\$ 1 US Dollar = \$ 7 Namibian Dollars

LIFT Technical Assistance Mechanism

The Livelihoods and Food Security Technical Assistance (LIFT) project provides technical assistance to United States Government (USG) missions and partners worldwide on the integration of food security and livelihoods strengthening, with HIV/AIDS interventions to sustainably improve the economic circumstances of HIV/AIDS-affected households and communities. LIFT is a five-year project aimed at heightening the impact of the work of U.S. government agencies supporting the U.S. President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), their implementing organizations and other partners and stakeholders, such as local governments, civil society and the private sector. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Bureau for Global Health's Office of HIV/AIDS (OHA) established the LIFT project as an Associate Award under the Financial Integration, Economic Leveraging and Broad-Based Dissemination (FIELD)-Support Leader with Associates (LWA) cooperative agreement, previously managed by AED, now FHI360, and in close collaboration with CARE International and Save the Children - US. LIFT's purpose is to support the effective design and delivery of integrated HIV, food security, and livelihood strengthening programs.

LIFT responded to a request by USAID/Namibia in late 2009 to identify high-potential market opportunities in Namibia, potential partners, and to provide recommendations on how these opportunities could be integrated with Food by Prescription (FBP) and gender and HIV/AIDS illness issues. The first step of the assessment was a comprehensive desk review of available data on the current situation of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) in Namibia and existing economic strengthening programming. LIFT then carried out an in-country mission to Namibia to meet with relevant stakeholders, to follow-up on promising opportunities and to address information gaps identified during the desk review. The desk review and in-country assessment took place from November 2009 to May 2010. This report presents a review of LIFT's findings and recommendations. It finds that in spite of a challenging context facing PLHIV in Namibia, many opportunities currently exist to strengthen livelihoods and food security.

Executive Summary

Background and Objectives

USAID/Namibia aims to improve the economic and food security of PLHIV in Namibia. The Livelihoods and Food Security Technical Assistance (LIFT) project responded to a request by USAID/Namibia to conduct a food security and livelihood assessment in Namibia oriented towards people living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The objectives of the field assessment were as follows:

- Identify and analyze activities with the highest potential for livelihood and economic strengthening
- Assess how Food by Prescription (FBP) can be complemented with longer-term livelihood approaches
- Identify key market opportunities that can be pursued
- Identify existing programs for partnership potential
- Consider gender and illness burden issues

Based on USAID/Namibia's guidance, the assessment examined opportunities to strengthen livelihoods that could be implemented immediately, as well as interventions that would require a longer-term investment. Recognizing the impact of HIV/AIDS in urban as well as rural areas of Namibia, the assessment looked at both agricultural and non-agricultural opportunities. Furthermore, the assessment strove to represent the geographic diversity of Namibia by including locations in the north, center and south of Namibia. This report was prepared specifically for USAID to assist in the Agency's strategic planning efforts.

Assessment Process

The LIFT assessment consisted of three parts:

- 1) A desk review was completed in December 2009 that identified existing initiatives and promising programming options.
- 2) This desk review was followed in February 2010 by an in-country mission involving FHI 360 (LIFT and the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance II (FANTA-2) projects), CARE International, Save the Children USA and Action for Enterprise, with support from Pact/Namibia.
- 3) Finally, an iterative process of analysis, feedback and revision following the field mission culminated in the completion of this report.

Situation Assessment

Food Security

While Namibia is chronically unable to produce sufficient volumes of staple foods to meet its needs, it has consistent access to food from regional markets, particularly South Africa. Food availability is therefore not a problem for most Namibian households, though some households outside of urban areas struggle to access fruits and vegetables in the off season, and drought or flooding can cause temporary shortfalls in some rural areas. Households access food differently across Namibia. Urban households are more likely to purchase their food than in rural areas, where food production is more common. Many rural residents rely upon remittances from family members living in urban areas for food access, often reciprocating by sending food at harvest time.

Food consumption patterns in Namibia tend to favor starches and meat, with little consumption of fruits, vegetables or other foods rich in micronutrients. Nutrition is a serious issue for many; nearly a quarter of adults are malnourished while over-nutrition is also becoming a challenge in urban areas.

Livelihood Security

Namibia's deceptive upper-middle income ranking masks the world's highest disparities in income. The gap between the small, modern sector and a growing informal economy is perpetuated by extremely high unemployment and inadequate competitiveness. Unemployment rates are disproportionately high among women (58.4 percent) and youth aged 20 to 24 (67 percent). PLHIV are particularly affected by the lack of adequate systems to maintain their productivity.

Illness Burden

Namibia has the seventh highest HIV prevalence in the world- more than 13 percent of Namibia's adult population (180,000 people) were living with HIV in 2009. An estimated 70,000 children have been orphaned as a result of AIDS. On a positive note, the HIV incidence rate is in decline in Namibia, and the percentage of PLHIV who are receiving anti-retroviral therapy (ART) is increasing¹. Nevertheless, the legacy of HIV/AIDS in Namibia continues to create additional demands on the health system.

HIV/AIDS creates negative impacts for food and livelihood security in Namibia. In rural areas, households living with HIV/AIDS tend to switch from producing millet to less labor-intensive but less nutritious crops such as maize. PLHIV also often sell productive assets (such as livestock) and have less time available to dedicate to agriculture due to illness and mourning. Children often cut back on their schooling to compensate for the absence of other breadwinners, while service providers such as agricultural extension

¹ UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, 2010.

officers are often absent. In urban areas, HIV/AIDS reduces households' ability to participate in the workforce or operate their enterprises. The results include weaker social and economic networks, lower labor productivity and the loss of productive knowledge. Ultimately, many households produce and purchase less food and are less able to earn income from other sources.

HIV/AIDS also compounds the nutritional issues faced by the Namibian poor by raising the daily caloric requirements from 10 to 30 percent and reducing nutrient absorption.² The Namibian diet primarily consists of protein (meat) and carbohydrates (consumed primarily as porridge), which do not provide the full range of needed nutrients. This diet has serious consequences for people living with HIV, reducing the efficacy of ART and increasing the risk of opportunistic infections.

Gender

Gender strongly shapes food security and livelihoods in Namibia. In rural areas, access to land, inputs and labor are generally a challenge for female subsistence farmers. Combined with HIV/AIDS, stigma (which is often worse for women), loss of a male head of household, and caring duties make women most at risk of losing access to land and other critical resources. Women tend to be over-represented in the informal sector, often unpaid, and earn less than men.

Many women in Namibia have lower social status than men. This dynamic has implications for food security, as women require adequate autonomy and self-confidence to engage in livelihood activities. This is also relevant to women's capacity to consistently take advantage of the rights that are accorded to them under Namibian law, especially if they are widowed and/or left to care for children (their own and others'). For PLHIV, gaining and maintaining control of assets that are left by relatives is an important contributor to livelihoods. However, there is much evidence of asset stripping and denial of access to productive and other assets of the deceased: although only 3 percent of women in Namibia report being widowed (likely due to low marriage rates), 40 percent of those reported being dispossessed of property.³

Legal and Social Protection

Cracks exist within legal and social protection systems in Namibia. Although the Children's Status Act, which went into effect in 2008, has admirably streamlined and simplified the process of handling guardianship issues, the Act itself requires reform. Knowledge of the Act is still weak, and less than half of all caregivers have made succession arrangements for their children. Moreover, there is an absence of both codified rights and law, with respect to asset stripping and evidence of denial of access to productive and other assets of the deceased. Several cash-transfer programs exist to

² World Health Organization.

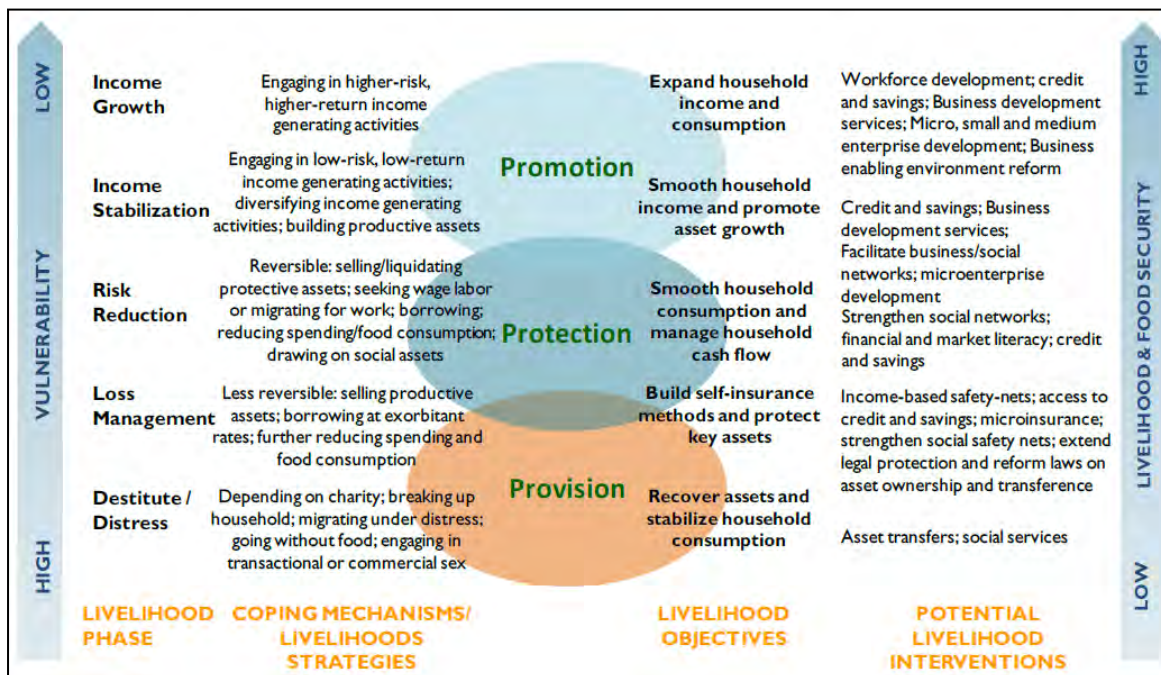
³ NDHS, 2008.

support social protection, including an old-age pension, a maintenance grant, a special maintenance grant and a recently ended Basic Income Grant (BIG) pilot. These programs have had significant positive impacts on improving social safety nets in Namibia. Access to savings services that smooth consumption and build liquid assets are emerging but still nascent, while there are practically no formal insurance products available to PLHIV, their families and the rural poor in general.

Recommendations

In consideration of these gaps, LIFT identified several recommended priorities to guide PEPFAR’s work in advancing PLHIV livelihoods in Namibia. These priorities are oriented towards addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, such as PLHIV, and therefore include several strategies for livelihood provisioning, protection and promotion. They are illustrated by LIFT’s livelihood pathway in the figure below.

LIFT Livelihoods and Vulnerability Framework



The recommended priorities address the key constraints preventing PLHIV and other members of their households from improving their level of food security and economic well-being and consist of short-term and long-term livelihood priorities and strategies. Short-term strategies are those needed immediately to address binding constraints. They require less financial investment and human capacity, and less than two years for outcomes to be achieved. Longer term strategies require more investment and human capacity to implement and more than two years for outcomes to be evident, but tend to

be higher yielding and able to reach more beneficiaries. Potential partners are suggested who are well positioned to implement each of the strategies.

Strategic Opportunity 1: Provision of Temporary Livelihood Support

For the most vulnerable PLHIV, personal sickness or the illness or death of another family member can disrupt livelihood patterns and reduce food and/or income flows because of health constraints, reduced able-bodied labor in the household, or lack of necessary assets and inputs. PLHIV and their families typically cope with these shocks by reducing the frequency and quantity of food consumption, selling assets, curtailing productive activities, and reducing expenditure- even for essential items (e.g. food, medication) and activities (e.g. travel to clinics, school fees). Healthy family members, usually women, often stop working or reduce their hours to care for sick relatives. This further reduces household income for food, health care, and other basic needs. Children may be withdrawn from school to help care for the sick or generate cash, thus negatively impacting educational outcomes and future opportunities for food and livelihood security. Temporary provisioning of livelihood support can assist PLHIV and affected household members to avoid these harmful coping strategies, allowing them to avert the sale of productive assets and avoid a spiral of worsening household food insecurity.

LIFT recommends the BIG as a promising intervention that can be quickly initiated in areas of high HIV prevalence. In the longer term, certain types of employment-generating public works create opportunities for PLHIV or their family members to build their asset base.

Strategic Opportunity 2: Protection of Emerging Livelihoods

PLHIV who have managed to achieve a minimum level of assets and stabilize their consumption patterns are often vulnerable to unexpected health or other shocks that may severely disrupt their livelihoods. In such situations, it is typically impossible for PLHIV to focus solely or even primarily on profit maximization. Rather, building systems to cope with risk is critical. Such systems may include building assets, managing cash flow, and diversifying income streams. Initiatives that work to bolster these risk management systems are important steps to building sustainable livelihoods.

LIFT has identified savings mobilization and support for legal access and protection within existing projects as two recommended short-term strategies to build safety nets and assets. In the long term, both micro-insurance and legal reform are important contributors to a more secure environment for PLHIV in Namibia, but will require considerable investment.

Strategic Opportunity 3: Promotion of Enduring Livelihood Opportunities

PLHIV with productive assets and access to safety nets are much more able to pursue income growth strategies. Given the diversity of PLHIV and their livelihood strategies in Namibia, LIFT identified both urban and rural priorities for income growth. These priorities leverage key market opportunities that can be pursued.

Viable options for livelihood advancement in urban areas are critical to addressing food security among PLHIV in Namibia. LIFT identified several opportunities to rapidly advance this strategic priority in the short term. Skills building is a critical priority given high levels of unemployment and the existing skills of PLHIV, some of whom have been previously employed – particularly those in urban areas - and can be connected back in to the labor force. Tourism in particular is a fast-growing sector requiring skill sets not adequately available at present, but within reach of PLHIV and their families. Craft production and sales are related opportunities for which linkages can be created to existing firms.

The critical role that agriculture plays as a source of nutrition and the income that it provides for many PLHIV, especially in the north-central and northeast, makes it essential to also focus on improving livelihoods within the agricultural sector. In the short term, vegetable gardening offers PLHIV and other family members an opportunity to bolster the nutritional intake through their current diets with healthy fruits and vegetables. Moreover, small animal husbandry offers income opportunities with low barriers to entry and manageable risks. Advocating for wider adoption of conservation agriculture (CA) practices, particularly for *mahangu* (pearl millet) production, is an important step in this direction that will require a longer timeframe to implement. Indigenous natural products (INPs) are a second recommended avenue to improving agricultural profitability, though INPs are also a longer term option, given the recent disruptions in international markets. Access to improved grain storage technologies will facilitate higher sales and improved nutrition. The following table differentiates the agricultural and non-agricultural *high-potential market opportunities* that were identified.

Agricultural Subsectors	Non-Agricultural Subsectors
Small animal husbandry	Tourism
Indigenous natural products	Crafts
Vegetable gardening	

Wild silk, large-scale horticulture and large livestock were subsectors that were considered but ultimately not recommended for investment.

STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES

Strategic Opportunity 1: Provision of Temporary Livelihood Support

Short-Term Priorities

- Basic Income Grant

Long-Term Priorities

- Employment-Generating Public Works

Strategic Opportunity 2: Protection of Emerging Livelihoods

Short-Term Priorities

- Savings Mobilization
- Legal Protection and Advocacy

Long-Term Priorities

- Micro-insurance

Strategic Opportunity 3: Promotion of Enduring Livelihood Opportunities

Short-Term Priorities

- Tourism-Related Skill Building
- Vocational Training and Skills Building for Workforce Development
- Craft Development and Marketing
- Small Animal Husbandry
- Vegetable Gardening

Long-Term Priorities

- Conservation Agriculture to Enhance Mahangu Production
- Indigenous Natural Products
- Improved Grain Storage

1. Background

Improved access to food is often cited as the highest priority among groups served by PEPFAR programs, and it is a critical need for many households in Namibia. HIV/AIDS contributes to food insecurity by reducing the availability and productivity of agricultural and other forms of labor, eroding savings and increasing health care expenses. With support from USAID/Namibia and technical assistance from the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance II Project (FANTA-2), the Namibia Ministry of Health and Social Services is implementing a national Food by Prescription (FBP) program for people living with HIV. The FBP approach provides specialized food products to acutely malnourished clients on anti-retroviral therapy (ART) for a limited amount time, based on strict entry and exit criteria. As PEPFAR/Namibia integrates nutrition interventions into clinical care and treatment, sustainable strategies are needed to help clients obtain adequate nutrition after graduating from FBP.

For this reason, USAID/Namibia requested that FANTA-2 conduct a brief review of food security among HIV-affected households with Pact/Namibia. FANTA-2 asked LIFT to take the lead in the assessment given LIFT's technical expertise. LIFT complemented FANTA-2's USAID/Namibia funding with its own core resources, which allowed for a more in-depth food and livelihood security assessment for PLHIV, aiming to enhance the sustainability of nutrition assessment, counseling, and support (NACS) programming. USAID expressed an interest in programming options that could be immediately implemented as well as those that would require a longer time horizon that could inform USAID's future work. These options needed to be relevant to PEPFAR partners, including Pact/Namibia.

LIFT is a project that provides technical assistance to United States Government agencies on improving livelihoods and strengthening food security. LIFT responded to FANTA-2 and USAID/Namibia's request by conducting a desk review in December 2009, and then an in-depth field assessment in February and March 2010. The assessment objectives were to analyze and recommend options with the strongest potential for improving food security and livelihood strengthening, while assessing and making recommendations on how short-term food aid strategies could and should be integrated with medium-term to longer-term livelihood approaches.

The desk review drew primarily from secondary source information. The review team identified relevant documents through email communication with partners on the ground in Namibia. To expand the knowledge base and fill in information gaps, the research team conducted Internet research and reviewed key databases and directories, including the Namibian Development Directory 2008, the National Network of AIDS Service Organizations (NANASO), USAID's MicroLinks, Development Experience Clearinghouse and BDS Knowledge. The field assessment was designed to test and expand the preliminary desk assessment findings. It drew from the findings of the desk assessment and the recommendations of USAID/-Namibia and Pact/Namibia to determine its interview schedule, which included USAID/Namibia, Government of

Namibia ministry officials, private sector representatives from promising sectors (e.g. chambers of commerce, lead firms), PEPFAR implementing partners, PLHIV and community representatives. Information collection was accomplished primarily through in-depth interviews, although focus group discussions were also conducted. The assessment team visited six of Namibia's 13 regions, focusing particularly on areas with high HIV prevalence in the north, center, and south of the country. These regions included Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena, and Oshikoto in the north, Karas in the south, and Khomas (Figure 1).

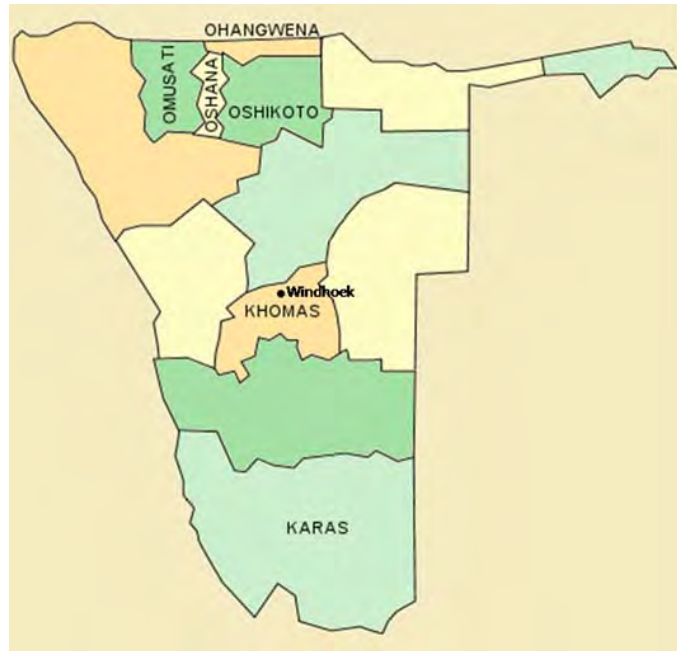


Figure 1 - Map of Study Areas

The assessment was conducted with support from the FANTA-2 Project, which has been active in supporting nutrition and HIV/AIDS activities in Namibia. The project is funded by USAID and managed by the Bureau for Global Health.⁴ Pact/Namibia provided invaluable assistance in the desk review and logistical aspects of the field assessment.

2. Situation Analysis

In exploring the issues associated with food security and livelihoods for PLHIV in Namibia, LIFT sought to understand existing systems of vulnerability and response. This process resulted in an analysis of a complex set of relationships between:

- HIV/AIDS and peoples' needs for and access to food
- Food security and nutrition
- Food security and economic livelihood activities
- Legal and social protection and access to productive assets

These relationships are complex and colored by the way that HIV/AIDS affects different individual's coping skills, capabilities and access to productive resources, with a strong emphasis on gender considerations.

⁴ For more information, visit www.fantaproject.org.

2.1 HIV/AIDS in Namibia

At the end of 2009, approximately 180,000 Namibians were living with HIV. This represents just over 13% of the adult population (aged 15-49), giving Namibia the seventh highest HIV prevalence in the world. HIV prevalence varies within Namibia, with higher percentages in the north-central regions and Caprivi. An estimated 70,000 children in Namibia have been orphaned as a result of AIDS⁵. Fortunately, there are some indications of hope. HIV incidence is in decline in Namibia⁶ and 76% of adults and 90% of children with advanced HIV infection were estimated to be receiving ART in 2009.⁷ Deaths due to AIDS dropped considerably between 2001 and 2007, although more than 5,000 people died from AIDS-related complications in 2007.⁸

For people living with HIV in Namibia, health care is not free. The costs associated with treating HIV are a significant barrier to accessing treatment and basic preventive health care. Clinic visits cost N\$5 per visit; nurses rarely see patients without requiring payment*. Even when exceptions are granted, fees are not fully waived and may be requested in subsequent visits. Patients are often reminded that they must pay the full cost for previous visits during follow-up appointments. This creates a significant barrier to services and to improved health because the poorest individuals may not even attempt to access the service in the first place, and if they do, they may be shamed into not coming back to collect medicines or for follow up care.⁹ In addition, transport costs can be significant - N\$50 round trip to a clinic to fetch anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs). The Namibian Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) indicates that less than 10 percent of Namibians live within walking distance of health services.¹⁰

2.2 Food Security

USAID defines food security as “when all people at all times have both physical and economic access to sufficient food to meet their dietary needs in order to lead a healthy and productive life.”¹¹ In this report, LIFT will focus on three primary aspects of food security: food availability, food access and food utilization. Although LIFT recognizes that the stability of the macro-environment is also an important aspect of food security, the assessment process has not explored this factor, given its broad scope. Food availability, access and utilization in the Namibian context are briefly discussed here.

⁵ UNAIDS, 2009.

⁶ UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, 2010.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ UNAIDS/WHO, 2008.

* Since the LIFT assessment was conducted, PLHIV and vulnerable households have been exempted from paying clinic fees.

⁹ Interview, Ministry of Gender Equity and Child Welfare.

¹⁰ NDHS, 2008.

¹¹ United States Agency for International Development, 1992.

2.2.1 Food Availability

Food availability is achieved when sufficient quantities of food are consistently available to all individuals in a country, whether supplied through household production, other domestic input, commercial imports or food assistance.¹² Namibia is structurally food deficit and relies on imports for over half of its food needs. Drought and flooding are perennial hazards affecting agricultural activity. The World Health Organization (WHO) statistics on child malnutrition from 2000-2009, defined as the percentage of children under 5 years who are underweight, place Namibia alongside other countries with much lower gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, and indicate that Namibia has a higher prevalence of child malnutrition than several other Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, including Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.¹³ Half of the country's population supplements market purchases with subsistence agriculture, which is characterized by low productivity and high variability due to water scarcity, erratic rainfall, poor soils and low capacity to support intensive agricultural methods. Less than one percent of total land in Namibia is arable, with increasing desertification threatening what exists.¹⁴ The 2009 Global Hunger Index, published by The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), ranks Namibia at 36 out of 121 countries assessed, with an index score of 14.4, indicating a "serious" food problem.¹⁵ This rating is nevertheless an improvement on Namibia's level in 1992. In 2009, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations estimated that Namibia would harvest 139,000 metric tons of staple crops and would need to import an additional 150,000 metric tons to meet its food needs.¹⁶

The HIV/AIDS and food security situations in Namibia exacerbate each other. HIV/AIDS leads to a reduction in labor supply and productivity within the agricultural sector. This in turn limits yield potential. In the north, which is characterized by labor-intensive, communal crop production and the highest poverty levels, the effects of HIV/AIDS are particularly severe, with consequences that include the following:¹⁷

- **Changes in crops produced-** Studies describe this crop substitution as the "devil's trade-off."¹⁸ In regions of northern Namibia, HIV/AIDS-affected households switch from more labor-intensive *mahangu* cultivation to less labor-intensive maize

¹² United States Agency for International Development, 1995.

¹³ WHO, World Health Statistics 2010.

¹⁴ Ashton et al, 2009.

¹⁵ IFPRI, <http://www.ifpri.cgiar.org/publication/2009-global-hunger-index> The Global Hunger Index is composed of the following indicators: the proportion of people who are food energy deficient, as estimated by the FAO; the prevalence of underweight in children under the age of 5, as compiled by the WHO; and the under-five mortality rate, as reported by UNICEF.

¹⁶ <http://www.wfp.org/countries/Namibia>.

¹⁷ Drawn from Herbert Jauch, et al, 2009. There is a strong geographical concentration of low income and poverty in the northern regions of Kavango, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshikoto, Oshana, and Caprivi. Among these, Kavango and Ohangwena regions have the highest incidences of poverty, at 56.5% and 44.7% respectively.

¹⁸ Fuller and Van Zyl, 2006.

production. However, maize is a heavy feeder and can lead to soil depletion if it is not rotated. It also requires more rain and fertilizer than millet and is less nutritious, resulting in negative impacts upon household food security.

- **Reduction in the amount of land under cultivation-** A 2002 study of HIV/AIDS-affected households in Namibia found that a majority of households surveyed decreased the average area cultivated in the past five years owing to labor constraints. On average, affected female-headed households reduced the land under cultivation by 26% and reported an average reduction in land holding of 11%.¹⁹
- **Sale of productive assets to offset additional expenses related to illness or death-** Livestock are an important store of wealth for rural Namibians. While households sell livestock as part of a normal livelihood strategy, those households affected by HIV/AIDS are more likely to dispose of livestock in distress, to cover medical and other expenses or because of reduced labor supply.
- **Weakened social and economic networks-** PLHIV lack time to attend community events and other activities that build their social capital and ultimately impact their livelihoods. An FAO report observed that family and social networks are increasingly negatively affected by HIV/AIDS through morbidity, reflecting decreasing assets that affect willingness to share and time taken away from social networks to devote to care of PLHIV.
- **Loss of farmer skills and knowledge as a result of illness, death and migration-** These patterns disrupt the traditional systems of intergenerational agricultural knowledge transfer.
- **Decline in total time available for agricultural activities-** HIV/AIDS-related illness and death pull other household and community members away from productive activities. Extended mourning and caretaking of the sick were estimated to cost farmers over 25 percent of their productive time in some cases, according to a 2003 study.²⁰ In Oshana and Caprivi, when someone died, relatives were found to mourn for between four and eight days, and the entire community would stop working on the day of the funeral.²¹
- **Replacement of adult labor with child labor-** Child labor is less productive as children have less knowledge, strength and experience in farming. This practice also limits children's ability to attend school, further reducing their uptake of the knowledge and skills necessary to help them pursue other employment opportunities in the future.
- **Reduction in agricultural extension services as a result of illness and death among extension officers and stretched public resources-** This exacerbates the loss of farmer skills and knowledge, as a result of reduced access to technical assistance by knowledgeable extension agents among those farmers who remain.

¹⁹ FAO HIV/AIDS and Agriculture: Impacts and Responses, 2003.

²⁰ Abate et al, 2003.

²¹ Ida-Eline, E. 2002.

Food availability varies at the sub-national level. In Windhoek, a range of food is always available in urban markets. Rural communities may face periodic shortages when harvests are poor. Outside urban areas, fruits and vegetables are scarce when not in season.

2.2.2 Food Access

Food access is ensured when all households and individuals within them have adequate resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. Access depends on income available to the household, distribution of income within the household and the price of food.²² Namibians access food from a variety of sources, which vary in importance across the country. In Windhoek, the majority of food is purchased, not produced. Access to water, small plots and land tenure problems are all constraints to pursuing food production.²³ When insufficient money does not allow urban residents to purchase adequate food, they tend to rely upon transfers from others. These are often from family members in the north, though more commonly from neighbors.²⁴ In the north, the availability of farm land, a more favorable climate and lower purchasing power make food production more important for food access. However, declining household food production has resulted in increased reliance on cash or gifts/contributions from family or community members to meet food needs, or simply the failure to meet basic food needs.

The extended family plays an important role in food access of rural Namibians. According to a 2009 study, 54 percent of surveyed migrants in Windhoek were sending money back to rural areas (primarily the north) to purchase food.²⁵ These recipients often reciprocate by sending food back to urban relatives, 44 percent of whom had received at least some food from this source, according to surveys. These urban-rural linkages illustrate the complex economic connections between Namibians. Many urban residents maintain these linkages as an informal insurance mechanism to be called upon in case of prolonged illness.²⁶

The negative effects of HIV/AIDS on household food access are well-documented in Namibia. The 2003/2004 Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey shows that 42 percent of households in rural areas spent more than 60 percent of their annual income on food in the previous year.²⁷ Any reduction of income (which could occur through regular harvest failure, plant and animal diseases, environmental damage, or even losses of labor through death), therefore, holds dire challenges for such households. *Notably, the most food insecure Namibians are those with HIV/AIDS and*

²² United States Agency for International Development, 1995.

²³ Ashton et al, 2009.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Namibia National Planning Commission, 2006.

receiving ART.²⁸

In urban areas, HIV/AIDS has a critical impact upon families whose dependency ratios rise as they look after greater numbers of orphans. This has a very negative impact upon household food security, as 90 percent of households that care for orphans considered themselves to be food insecure.²⁹ The same survey found that 100 percent of these families complained of not having enough to eat.

Gender plays a significant role in food access in Namibia. Access to land, inputs, and labor are generally a challenge for women subsistence farmers, but combined with HIV/AIDS, stigma, which is often worse for women, loss of a male head of household, and caring duties make women most at risk of losing access to land and other critical resources. Women tend to make up a large proportion of the informal sector, often unpaid, and earning less than men.

2.2.3 Food Utilization and Nutrition

Effective food utilization largely depends on household knowledge of food storage and processing techniques, basic knowledge of nutrition, proper child care and feeding practices and access to clean water and sanitation facilities.³⁰

Low income earners in Namibia struggle to meet their minimum daily requirements for food intake. This is reflected in the fact that in 2008, 18 percent of adults were undernourished³¹. This is equally true for children; 17 percent and 8 percent of whom are reported as underweight for their age and wasted, respectively.³²

The 2008 NDHS describes the nutrition situation of Namibian women in the following passage:

“Sixteen percent of women are chronically malnourished with a body mass index (BMI) less than 18.5, while 16% are overweight and 12% are obese. Three in ten women age 15-19 are thin or undernourished. There are variations in BMI between urban and rural women. More women in rural areas have a BMI less than 18.5 (20%) than women in urban areas (12%). The percentage of overweight or obese women is, however, higher in urban areas (21 and 16%, respectively) than in rural areas (12% and 7%, respectively). Ohangwena (22%) and Oshana (21%) have the highest percentage of undernourished women, while Caprivi has the lowest percentage (8%). The percentage of undernourished women decreases

²⁸ Ashton et al, 2009.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ United States Agency for International Development, 1995.

³¹ FAO, 2011.

³² NDHS, 2008.

with increasing educational level and with increasing wealth quintile, while the opposite pattern is seen among overweight and obese women.”³³

Although nutrition is a pressing issue among the poor in Namibia, it is compounded for PLHIV because of the impacts of the virus. These include higher caloric intake requirements (10 to 30 percent more) and reduced nutrient absorption.³⁴ In addition, many of the drugs for opportunistic infections and those that are part of ART regimens require that patients eat either before or after taking them.

Beyond simply ensuring sufficient caloric intake, HIV/AIDS requires attention to micro- and macro-nutrients. Both can be lost due to illness and, in particular, to diarrheal disease. The Namibian diet primarily consists of protein (meat) and carbohydrates (consumed primarily as porridge), which do not provide the full range of needed nutrients. This lack of a balanced diet can have serious consequences for people living with HIV. Sound nutritional status contributes positively to the body’s ability to fight off infections, including the opportunistic infections associated with HIV/AIDS.

Insufficient - and insufficiently nutritious - food is recognized as a barrier to the efficacy of ART and treatment of opportunistic infections. It also contributes to hastening the progression from HIV to AIDS. HIV/AIDS patients often face challenges in food intake, including loss of appetite, illness and the side-effects of medications.

The *Livelihoods Priorities and Strategies* section of this report discusses options to address Namibia’s food security challenges by improving food access and utilization among PLHIV.

2.3 Economic/Livelihood Security

Twenty years after Namibia gained its independence, its economy is still divided between a small, modern sector and a growing informal economy. However, Namibia is one of the most unequal societies in the world, with a Gini Coefficient of 0.74, the highest of assessed countries.³⁵ Unlinked primary sectors dominate the economy, including agriculture, mining, and fishing. The small modern sector, particularly mining, is capital intensive with few available job opportunities. Namibia is heavily dependent on the international market, above all on South Africa. Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) exhibit little evidence of competitiveness, differentiation, upgrading, or dynamic participation in value chains. There are few coordinating mechanisms between private business and government. Non-financial business services are not oriented to the demands of MSMEs, which also have limited access to financial

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ World Health Organization.

³⁵ UNDP, 2009. The Gini Coefficient is a measure of statistical dispersion commonly applied to measuring inequality of income or wealth. Zero indicates total equality and 1 indicates maximum inequality.

services, particularly in rural areas.³⁶ Outside of Windhoek and Oshakati, Namibia's very low population density restricts economic activity. Limited demand constrains the availability of products and services that enable business growth and access to markets, such as regular, reliable transportation services.

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Reflecting the wealth generated by its natural resource sector, Namibia has recently been reclassified as an upper-middle-income country. In spite of extreme economic inequality and the presence of food and livelihood insecurity, this new designation will have ramifications for continued donor support. The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has already indicated that it will withdraw from Namibia in 2013, at the end of its current five-year funding cycle.³⁸ Other donors are likely to follow suit, reducing the resources available to address the consequences on the most vulnerable of the country's unequal growth patterns.



Figure 2 - Subsistence farming of mahangu

Approximately 28 percent of Namibian households are classified as “poor”.³⁹ Nearly 70 percent of the population lives in rural areas, where poverty is most extreme. Data indicate that poverty rates range from six percent in Khomas to 57 percent in Kavango. Poverty rates in the north-central region are very high and range between 20 percent in Oshana to 45 percent in Ohangwena, with Omusati at 31 percent, and Oshikoto at 41

³⁶ <http://www.gtz.de/en/praxis/16992.htm>.

³⁷ <http://www.gtz.de/en/praxis/16992.htm>.

³⁸ Interview, MCC.

³⁹ NPC, A Review of Poverty and Inequality in Namibia, 2008. “Poor” is defined as households where consumption levels per adult equivalent are lower than N\$ 262.45.

percent. In the south, Hardap suffers from a poverty rate of 32 percent, and Karas' rate of poverty is slightly lower at 22 percent.⁴⁰ There is significant discontinuity between estimates of poverty rates in Namibia, however, and considerable skepticism about recently reported improvements.⁴¹

There are significant differences in the kinds of work men and women do, and the way that women are compensated for their labor. According to the NDHS, women are most likely to be employed in the sales and service industry, followed by the agricultural sector; men are most likely to find work in the agriculture sector, followed by skilled manual labor. In 2007, 52 percent of the women who worked in the agricultural sector were employed by family members and 81 percent did not receive wages⁴². The 2008 Namibia Labor Force Survey (NLFS) reveals notably higher unemployment rates for women (58.4 percent) than for men (43.5 percent) and high unemployment among youth people (67 percent among those aged 20 to 24)⁴³.

The NLFS's 2008 preliminary results classify 51.2 percent of Namibians as "unemployed"—a figure that includes people who are both looking for work and who have given up seeking employment; a narrower definition of unemployment (those actively seeking work) revealed in 2010 that 29.4 percent of Namibians are unemployed.⁴⁴ Given high rates of unemployment, the informal sector is increasingly important for Namibians, but is poorly researched. The 2008 NLFS includes a module on the informal sector, but was not available at the time of writing this report. Prior research characterizes the following activities as components of the informal sector:

- Crafts (including woodwork, pottery, handicraft, basketry, jewelry-making, leatherworking, weaving, sewing and furniture-making)
- Small-scale manufacturing (including bread-making, tailoring, food catering, candle-making and confectionery)
- Small-scale mining
- Small-scale construction (including building, brick-making, plumbing, welding, carpentry and electricity)
- Informal services (including transport, repairs of cars, shoes, electric household appliances, gardening, domestic work and shoe polishing)
- Informal trade, including informal rural markets (Cuca shops or unlicensed houses selling liquor) and informal urban markets (e.g., Katutura single quarters), informal cross-border trade (e.g., along the Namibia-Angola border), informal meat markets (bush-markets in rural and urban areas), informal mahangu marketing, and informal/illegal diamond smuggling)⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Republic of Namibia, *A Review of Poverty and Inequality in Namibia*, 2008.

⁴¹ Levine and Roberts, 2007.

⁴² NDHS, 2008.

⁴³ Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, 2008.

⁴⁴ *The Namibian*, 4 February 2010.

⁴⁵ LaRRI, 2004.

Although relatively poorly supported and researched, the informal sector does make a significant contribution to Namibian households. As of 2004, 60,000 to 80,000 Namibians were active in the informal sector. Of 388 informal sector operators studied in Windhoek, over 30 percent supported fewer than 5 family members, over 40 percent supported between 5 and 10 people, and 10 percent supported more than 10 members.⁴⁶

HIV/AIDS limits opportunities for economic activity and economic growth. As people become increasingly ill, they are increasingly unproductive without access to services and support - especially in labor-intensive sectors, such as agriculture, mining and fisheries. This leads to declining household income and a reduced ability to purchase necessary food and health care, pay, school fees (affecting the economic potential of children and youth) and invest in businesses and/or other economic activities. Deaths among people of productive age, increased health care expenses for those who are ill and higher dependency ratios as a result of orphaned children all take a significant financial toll on the Namibian economy. To reverse this downward spiral, external support must take into account the immediate needs of PLHIV, their short-term capacity, and means to increase their capacity - including increases in labor due to improved health (either through access to ART, food, or both), increases in skills that the market demands, access to appropriate value chains and markets, and access to appropriate financial services - including savings and micro-loans.

The *Livelihoods Priorities and Strategies* section of this report discusses options to support economic opportunities that are relevant to PLHIV and their families.

2.4 Legal and Social Protection

Legal access, legal protection, and safety nets are crucial to the livelihoods and food security of PLHIV. In recognition of the gender differences in access that prevail across many contexts, and the important role that women play as caregivers and contributors to household livelihoods, LIFT looked specifically at how gender dynamics affect individuals, households and communities.

In general, the social inequality between Namibian men and women limits women's economic opportunities and options for legal recourse. The 2008 NDHS, for instance, asked women a series of questions to ascertain "women's empowerment," using the acceptability of wife beating as a proxy for women's perception of their own status in society. The findings indicate that 35 percent of women and 41 percent of men agree with at least one of five specified reasons for a husband to beat his wife.⁴⁷ This has implications for food security, as women require adequate autonomy and self-confidence to engage in livelihood activities. This is also relevant to women's capacity to

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ NDHS, 2008. These reasons include: neglecting the children, leaving the house without informing the husband, arguing with the husband, burning the food, or refusing to have sex.

consistently take advantage of the rights that are accorded to them under Namibian law, especially if they are widowed and/or left to care for children (their own, and others'). For PLHIV, gaining and maintaining control of assets that are left by relatives is an especially important contributor to livelihoods.

Both an improved legal environment and the creation of financial safety nets with pathways to livelihood promotion form important elements of a social protection regime which ensures that fewer PLHIV fall into destitution and that poverty is not perpetuated across generations. These safety nets are critical given



Figure 3 - Interviewing farmers

what is known about how the very vulnerable (such as PLHIV) adjust to external shocks (e.g. drought, labor market disruptions, loss of a loved one) through leveraging existing assets, liquidating productive assets and, ultimately, dissolution of the household or permanent migration.

Given the high levels of inequality in Namibia, it is even more critical that PLHIV are able to access effective legal protection, basic social services, cash transfers, savings mechanisms and insurance.

2.4.1 Legal and Access Issues

In discussion with human rights activists, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGECW), the LIFT assessment team found that two legal issues were most relevant for PLHIV: guardianship of children, and inheritance rights for both women and children. Both of these issues have particular gender impacts, given the primary care-giving responsibilities that are ascribed to women, and their generally weak social status in Namibia.

(i) Guardianship

A key issue for children (and parents and caregivers) affected by HIV/AIDS is related to guardianship. When HIV/AIDS causes sickness or death within families, the effectiveness of guardianship systems impacts the ensuing livelihoods of children and their families.

Although there is a new procedure for guardianships under the Children's Status Act of 2006, it is not well known among Namibians. In the past, to secure guardianship, applications were processed through the High Court. The new provisions, however, significantly streamline and simplify the process. Under the Children's Status Act, applications for guardianship can be made at the Magistrate's Court, and, if there is no disputing party, are considered an administrative matter. Disputes are also simplified,

with cases handed over to social workers for investigation (although, given low numbers of social workers, this may pose more of a challenge than intended).

Although the new provisions represent significant, positive changes for caregivers and children, less than half of all caregivers have made succession arrangements for their children.⁴⁸ Further, due to poor understanding of these provisions, the Act has not necessarily created the kind of positive change that was envisioned. There is a need for more awareness-raising regarding these new provisions and procedures so that guardians, and the children they care for, are better informed and able to access the support to which they are entitled. Further discussion of these benefits is presented below in the section on cash transfers.

(ii) Inheritance

The Communal Land Reform Act is working reasonably well in Namibia; people are aware of it and exercising their rights to land. However, there is an absence of both codified rights and law with respect to asset stripping. For example, current legislation allows for “customary-law heirs” who are meant to hold items in trust for children. Since customary law is still valid, when inheritance-related disputes are taken to the police, the police have had to refer them to the MGECW (because no laws were broken and as such there are no grounds for police action). This leaves PLHIV with questionable protection in cases when their rightful assets are taken by other family members.

An important note is that “common law spouses” are not recognized in Namibian law. New research is underway, and likely to be completed by June 2010, but it is estimated that at least half of all “families” in Namibia are composed of non-married couples. Although polygamous unions have reportedly declined to six percent, it is uncertain if this has been replaced by less formalized multiple concurrent partnerships.⁴⁹

Inheritance issues in Namibia are the focus of much discussion, and possible legal reform. There is much evidence of asset stripping and denial of access to productive and other assets of the deceased. The NDHS also gives information on marital status and dispossession of assets. Although only three percent of women report being widowed (likely due to low marriage rates), 40 percent of those reported being stripped of property.⁵⁰ The most likely policy option that the Law Reform and Development Commission will pursue would allow for the following:

- Provisions would be made and enforced that ensure that the first priority will be for the maintenance of the most immediate dependents (children, spouses, “nuclear families”), and then allowing for other family members/dependents.

⁴⁸ NDHS, 2008.

⁴⁹ Interview with Legal Assistance Center.

⁵⁰ NDHS, 2008.

- Recognition of “customary heirs” would remain in force, which enables the positive aspects of customary law - especially its flexibility - to be retained.
- Questions and disputes associated with defining “customary heirs” (e.g., nieces versus nephews) could be resolved through later constitutional challenges, for example, on the grounds of gender equity (e.g., in instances where nephews are appointed customary heirs and deny access to assets to minor children, wives, common law wives, or others).

One of the major issues associated with inheritance, which will not be resolved by new legislation or statute, is the role of executors. Executors tend to be the primary heirs, but often struggle to separate their roles as executors from their desires as beneficiaries. Magistrates Courts can appoint executors when there are disputes.

2.4.2 Access to Social Services

Medical care and education are not free in practice. The constitution and Education Act provide for free schooling, but the Ministry of Education’s budget does not cover recurring costs and consumables. As a result, most schools charge fees to students. As noted above, visits to health clinics are N\$5 each. There are, therefore, impediments to accessing basic social services in Namibia in spite of the country’s formal frameworks.⁵¹

2.4.3 Cash Transfers

To meet the basic needs of PLHIV and other vulnerable or destitute populations, many countries use cash transfers to ensure a sufficient, but small, supplemental income to enable the poorest to survive. These transfers are to provide a regular income source for those who qualify, to assist them to smooth consumption and, in some instances, make small investments in low-risk, income-generating activities. Such cash transfers can have a powerful impact upon PLHIV and their long-term food security. Three established and targeted cash transfers in Namibia are the Old Age Pension (OAP), the Special Maintenance Grant for children, and the Foster Parent Allowance. A universal cash transfer—the BIG —was recently piloted in a small number of communities. Three of these transfers are described here.

(i) Old Age Pension (OAP)

The Old Age Pension (N\$450/month) is targeted to all Namibian citizens (or permanent residents) over the age of 60. Recipients’ families are also eligible to receive a funeral benefit to cover the basic costs of burial. The OAP is frequently the only income source that families have, and plays a crucial role in ensuring that basic food needs are met. Although the pension is targeted to the elderly, households frequently redistribute the pension so that the OAP supports many more people than just its intended beneficiary.

⁵¹ Interviews with UNICEF, MGECW.

It is often used as a means of household food security, investment in agriculture (e.g., fertilizers, implements), paying school fees, and many other purposes.

(ii) Maintenance Grant and Special Maintenance Grant

Targeted to assist children, the Maintenance Grant is a means-tested grant that provides financial support for up to six children (under 18 years of age) per applicant. An applicant must have a household income of less than N\$1,000 per month, be the biological parent of the child, have a spouse (mother or father of the child) who has passed away, is already receiving an OAP or Disability Grant (catering for adults living with AIDS), or is serving a prison term of longer than three months. The Special Maintenance Grant is for children with disabilities or children who have been formally diagnosed with HIV. The latter requires a referral from a medical doctor, as does the Disability Grant. The MGE CW commissioned a study on the grants' effectiveness and findings indicate that the grants are being used to support school fees and to ensure that children get at least one meal per day. The grants would be more effective if the Ministry of Education provided greater or more easily accessible support to poor and vulnerable children so that the grant money could be freed up for meeting other basic needs, such as food. As it stands now, the MGE CW is essentially subsidizing the Ministry of Education. There are anticipated changes to the Maintenance Grant that will allow easier access and fewer administrative hurdles. A category of "kinship carer" will be included in the grant, which will only require written agreement from a parent to allow a non-parental caregiver to register the child.

(iii) Basic Income Grant Pilot (BIG)

In January 2008, a coalition of non-governmental organizations started a two-year Basic Income Grant pilot project in the Otjivero-Omitara area (approximately 100 kilometers east of Windhoek). Eligibility for the grant required residence in the area as of July 2007 and an age below 60 years. The BIG provided for N\$100 per month, without conditionality. The findings from the April 2009 assessment report of the BIG pilot indicate the following:

- Household poverty dropped significantly. Using the food poverty line, 76 percent of residents fell below this line in November 2007. This was reduced to 37 percent within one year of the BIG. Among households that were not affected by in-migration, the rate dropped to 16 percent.
- The introduction of the BIG is correlated with an increase in economic activity. The proportion of people above age 15 engaged in income generating activities increased from 44 percent to 55 percent. Many participants raised their income by starting their own small business, including brick-making, baking bread, and dress-making. The BIG increased the size of the local market by increasing households' buying power.

- HIV-positive residents' access to ARVs was hampered by poverty and a lack of transport before the BIG was introduced. The BIG enabled many recipients to afford nutritious food and gain access to medication.
- Before the introduction of the BIG, almost half of the school-going children did not attend school regularly. After the introduction of the BIG, more than double the number of parents paid school fees (90 percent) and most of the children had school uniforms. Non-attendance for financial reasons dropped by 42 percent and this rate would have been even higher without the effects of migration towards Otjivero-Omitara. Drop-out rates at the school fell from almost 40 percent in November 2007 to five percent in June 2008 and further to almost 0 percent in November 2008.⁵²

The pilot concluded in December 2009 and, based on the above outcomes, appears to have been a successful intervention. However, there continues to be resistance from the Namibian government to adopting and scaling it up, and thus the long-term future of the BIG is unclear at the time of writing this report.

2.4.4 Access to Savings Mechanisms

In addition to safety nets, which provide cash or other forms of asset transfers to households, helping PLHIV to build their own cash reserves provides a cushion against shocks and stresses and begins to mobilize capital for small investments in productive activities. Across Africa, a number of organizations (including CARE, Oxfam, Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children, Pact and the Aga Khan Foundation) are promoting group savings and loan schemes, which start through mobilizing savings from a group, and then building on a component of drawing small loans from the group's savings, repaying them with interest. The groups tend to dissolve a portion (sometimes all) of the accumulated funds - savings plus interest - at the end of a predefined period, usually 12 months, timed to coincide with times when households need more cash, such as at the beginning of the planting season or the school year.

Savings mechanisms like these support a number of important functions of critical relevance to PLHIV. First, they have a smoothing effect on consumption. Either through individual or group savings, keeping a reserve for times of trouble means that these cash reserves can be liquidated to prevent the more detrimental disposal of productive assets in the event of an emergency (e.g. onset of HIV-related illness). Households that manage to save have developed an additional coping strategy and resource on which to draw. PLHIV are particularly prone to unexpected economic shocks caused by illness or death. Their capacity to cope with these events is critical to their longer term economic and social well-being. Building assets not only permits PLHIV to develop a form of self-insurance, but also facilitates other livelihood activities, including diversification of household activities and more lucrative investments requiring greater risk tolerance.

⁵² Haarmann et al, 2009.

Group savings schemes have the added benefit of fostering greater social capital, and savings groups have been used as platforms for other activities - such as discussions about nutrition, the development of individual and group economic activities, and community governance. Over time, savings groups can evolve into savings and lending groups; as capital accumulates, and with training and support, group members can take micro loans and return them with interest over an agreed period of time. These loans enable group members to make larger purchases without using hire-purchase mechanisms or other more expensive options. Interest from these loans accrues to the savings group, expanding the amount of capital available for loans, and contributing to each member's accumulated savings.

A key aspect of effective savings groups is the self-selection of members within the community based on trust. Consequently, it is not possible for projects to mandate participation in savings groups. Rather, agencies should encourage the formation of savings groups within communities by providing standardized training⁵³ and access to basic start-up equipment (i.e. savings boxes). There is little conclusive evidence regarding the potential of stigma and other issues to cause exclusion of PLHIV and other members of their households from participation in savings groups, though this is an important area to research. The experience of implementing agencies has indicated, however, that savings groups tend to involve the very poorest members of communities, who will often join together with others of a similar economic status.

In South Africa, where old age pensions and other cash transfers are available, savings and loans groups have been a welcome intervention, allowing households to escape from a cycle of debt and begin investing in small economic activities. In many Southern African countries, implementing organizations have modified the savings group model to include a "social fund"—a no-interest loan fund for emergencies (e.g. deaths, sudden illnesses). This innovation often gives added protection and support for PLHIV by allowing for unforeseen issues such as HIV/AIDS-related health challenges.

2.4.5 Insurance

Although many formal and informal safety nets have been described already, insurance is another important component of building personal and familial security. Life insurance, health insurance and asset insurance are all particularly relevant to PLHIV and their families, and critical to protecting orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) if their parents die. Most PLHIV in Namibia currently use informal insurance mechanisms, including personal savings and informal loans, to cover emergencies. At the time of this assessment, there were few formal insurance and micro-insurance schemes in Namibia. The only one identified by LIFT is a low-cost funeral insurance scheme provided by Alexander Forbes Insurance Group. While some informal insurance mechanisms may exist, few cover multiple villages and regions to avoid the risk of simultaneous shocks

⁵³ Several large implementing agencies (e.g. CARE, CRS) make available their training curriculum for replication by other agencies.

(e.g. crop failure) that overwhelm the system. Better access to insurance products by PLHIV in Namibia would significantly improve their ability to cope with unexpected shocks, and lessen the impacts upon their economic activities.

The feasibility of expanding PLHIV's access to formal insurance products needs to be better understood through further research. Low population densities and corresponding low margins in rural areas may challenge profitable provision, while urban areas are more likely to be profitably served by existing providers. Experience from Uganda indicates that PLHIV can be viably served when they are members of larger groups also involving non-affected individuals. Working through existing community groups (e.g. burial societies) is often an option. Further analysis is required to determine whether there is an opportunity for USAID and PEPFAR to expand access to insurance among PLHIV in Namibia.

3. Livelihood Priorities and Strategies

The findings of the situation analysis make it clear that there is considerable food insecurity at the household level in Namibia. Moreover, a range of structural challenges negatively impact the livelihoods of most Namibians. These challenges are exacerbated for PLHIV, many of whom face additional barriers to building strong livelihoods. LIFT recognizes that PLHIV and other vulnerable groups can be exposed to very different risks and vulnerabilities and therefore are capable of pursuing different types of economic opportunities, depending on where they are situated along a livelihood pathway. The LIFT livelihood pathway, presented again below in Figure 2, illustrates how risk tolerance and economic strategies typically vary for PLHIV and other vulnerable groups. At different stages along the pathway, provision, protection and promotion interventions all have a role in facilitating the advancement towards sustainable livelihoods.

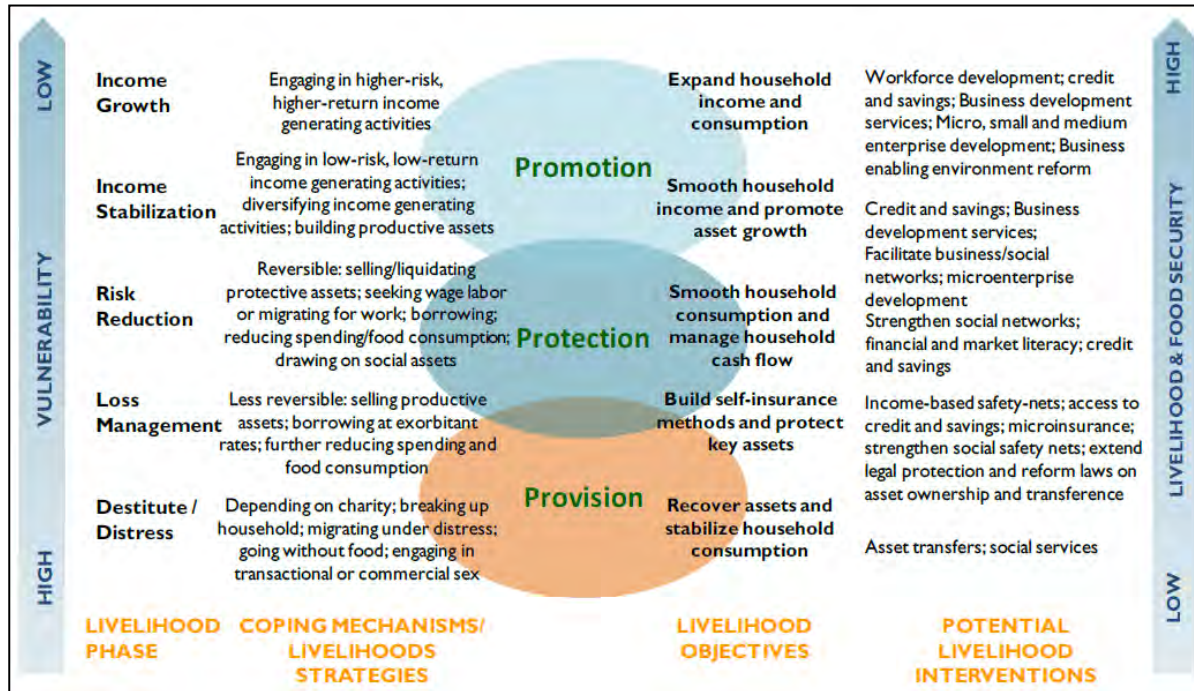
Livelihood provisioning interventions seek to meet basic needs, stabilize consumption and recover critical assets of destitute or near-destitute households. Households best suited to livelihood provisioning have exhausted their self-insurance mechanisms, depleted their assets and possibly adopted more desperate coping behaviors.

Livelihood protection interventions aim to maintain and/or build the household's capacity to reduce risk and cope with shocks and stresses. Protection interventions cover a range of activities designed to smooth household consumption or income, manage household cash flows and build protective assets.

Livelihood promotion interventions seek to increase household income and assets by increasing labor productivity and the returns to labor. At the structural level, promotion interventions seek to address the factors that constrain the households' participation in the market and the benefits it derives from participation. Other promotion

interventions may seek to integrate women or other socially marginal groups into the market and/or to expand their earning opportunities and incomes.

Figure 2: LIFT Livelihoods and Vulnerability Framework



LIFT identified several priorities to guide USAID and PEPFAR’s work in improving the livelihoods of PLHIV in Namibia, These priorities correspond to the provision, protection, and promotion strategies described in Figure 2. Each of these priorities is described individually and accompanied by recommended short-term and long-term programming strategies. Short-term strategies require less financing, less human capacity and two years or less to achieve their outcomes. Longer term strategies require more investment and human capacity to implement, and more than two years for outcomes to be evident, but tend to be higher yielding and capable of absorbing more beneficiaries. The success of any of these strategies requires careful selection of participants and implementing partners.

LIFT drew from promising practices and lessons learned in economic strengthening for PLHIV to identify potential models for introduction or replication. The desk assessment identified models that had already been tested in Namibia, had potential for application, or were not suitable. It also identified promising economic subsectors (e.g. *mahangu*) with growing demand and the potential to reach large numbers of PLHIV. The field assessment tested the findings of the desk assessment by gathering feedback from a range of key stakeholders, including representatives from the private and public sectors and PLHIV themselves. In certain cases the field assessment uncovered opportunities that had not been identified during the desk assessment.

The livelihood design and recommended strategies were guided by a number of key principles:

- Enhance people's (and households') abilities to meet their basic needs, including food and nutritional needs, as a matter of urgency, and then develop a continuum of activities and options to help people expand their livelihood capacity and build more robust and sustainable livelihoods over time.
- Utilize a market-led approach to identify economic opportunities, recognizing that this approach is critical to achieving scale and sustainability in programming.
- Consider relevant aspects of Namibia's environment (e.g. low population density, disconnect between informal and formal sectors) that influence the viability of economic activities.
- Build onto existing traditional or widespread activities, where possible, that will not require large investments of time or effort to socialize people to a new activity or product.
- Ensure that the different abilities and constraints of people living with HIV and their households are considered when developing recommendations, while avoiding activities that place undue physical, social, or psychological burdens on PLHIV. Select activities that reduce immediate labor burdens on women and children; the labor spreading/labor saving approach of conservation agriculture is one such example.
- Make certain that recommendations take into account gender dynamics, for example, by considering inheritance issues and how this may or may not affect chosen options and opportunities. Thus, although large livestock production is a growth sector, and culturally acceptable in northern Namibia, it is also an activity primarily undertaken by men, and women's ability to inherit and control large livestock is often under threat; this reality tempered the assessment team's enthusiasm for this option.

A consideration for implementation will be how beneficiaries and participants become involved in different activities. Sustainability, efficacy, and impact will all be enhanced by working with people who choose different options and own their choices, rather than through a process of developing groups or actions around a particular characteristic. That is, PLHIV enrolled in NACS programs may not wish to join together to save, start a business or garden, or farm together as a result of this single shared characteristic any more than any other people who share an arbitrary characteristic. This finding was supported by the experience of a livelihoods support initiative funded by the Big Lottery Fund and implemented by the National Network of AIDS Service Organizations (NANASO), SkillShare, and KOMÉHO Namibia Development Agency. Its programs have been most successful when people have joined out of their own motivation and not because they belonged to a particular PLHIV support group.⁵⁴ This type of demand-driven approach is more likely to avoid creating stigma. Nevertheless, PLHIV may be

⁵⁴ Interviews with NANASO and KOMÉHO.

underrepresented in some economic strengthening initiatives, such as community-formed groups, because of stigma, a lack of time or resources to participate, or other barriers. Robust monitoring systems that assess the level of engagement of PLHIV in these groups are important to identifying and addressing these types of impediments. Diverse skill sets are required to address the livelihood priorities presented in this report. Implementing food security and livelihood programming in this context requires competence not only in the livelihood options themselves but in tailoring to the needs, capacities, and assets of PLHIV. It is rare for individual organizations to have this full range of competencies. Linking with private firms and skilled service providers is often more sustainable, cost effective and successful. A list of potential linkages that were compiled during the desk review and field assessment is presented in Annex 3.

3.1 Strategic Opportunities

Strategic Opportunity #1: Provision of Temporary Livelihood Support

For the most vulnerable PLHIV, personal sickness or the illness or death of another family member can disrupt livelihood patterns and reduce food or income flows because of health constraints, reduced able-bodied labor in the household, or lack of necessary assets and inputs. PLHIV and their families typically cope with these shocks by reducing the frequency and quantity of food consumption, selling assets, curtailing productive activities and reducing expenditure - even for essential items (e.g. food, medication) and activities (e.g. travel to clinics, school fees). Healthy family members, usually women, often stop working or reduce their hours to care for sick relatives. This further reduces household income for food, health care and other basic needs. Children may be withdrawn from school to help care for the sick or generate cash, thus negatively impacting education outcomes and future opportunities for food and livelihood security. Temporary provisioning of livelihood support can assist PLHIV and affected household members to avoid these harmful coping strategies, allowing them to avert the sale of productive assets and avoid a spiral of worsening food insecurity.

LIFT recommends the basic income grant as a promising intervention that can be quickly initiated in areas of high HIV prevalence. In the longer term, certain types of employment-generating public works create opportunities for PLHIV or their family members to build their asset base.

Short-Term Priority

(i) Basic Income Grant (BIG)

As noted above, the Basic Income Grant was a cash transfer pilot program designed as a small but ongoing payment made to the poor. The two-year BIG pilot program ended in December of 2009. Based on its success, the idea was to develop a universally targeted ongoing payment to the poor. The BIG emerged from a review of Namibia's tax system by NAMTAX in 2002. The review found that "by far the best method of addressing

poverty and inequality would be a universal income grant.”⁵⁵ A coalition of civil society organizations formed the Basic Income Grant Coalition in 2005 and began a pilot in 2008, in the Otjivero-Omitara region, with 1,200 people. The pilot project findings included reduced malnutrition, increased income-generating activities, a rise in self-employment, and a number of other positive social changes. Importantly, recipients’ other economic activities did not decrease after commencement of the BIG. Despite the relatively small sample size of the pilot, the results appear to justify a broader pilot to verify and further test the results. A review of the pilot found the following:

“There is no doubt that the BIG is a limited measure and cannot be a panacea for all socio-economic challenges. The initiative has to be accompanied by other measures of redistribution, job creation, and structural changes. However, the BIG represents a promising starting point that can make an immediate dent in the debilitating and violent poverty that undermines the life chances of so many people.”⁵⁶

The BIG pilot ended in December 2009, and the BIG coalition is currently lobbying the Government of Namibia to take over and scale up this income transfer scheme. USAID and PEPFAR could support the Government of Namibia to make the BIG more sustainable by linking recipients to other economic strengthening and livelihoods programs and services.

Basic Income Grant	
Geographic Applicability	National
Start-Up Requirements	Government buy-in
Timeframe to Achieve Outcomes	Short term, once funding begins
Recommended Entry Point	Regions or communities
PLHIV Relevance	A universal cash transfer could provide an important input for vulnerable households dealing with OVC and/or PLHIV and AIDS. While the transfer is small, it could be used to purchase transport to health centers for ART, Food by Prescription, or health care. It could also be used to purchase food, pay school fees, etc.
Description	The BIG consisted of a small monthly payment of N \$100 (US\$13) to all households, regardless of income level.

⁵⁵ Haarmann, 2005, I.

⁵⁶ Basic Income Grant Coalition, 2008.

Advantages	Preliminary results suggest strong positive economic and social outcomes. BIGs can improve the resiliency of households to short-term shocks, allowing them to not draw down their productive assets, thus providing a buffer that will allow households to cope and rebound from shocks. A bank account was set up for recipients; this allowed participants to obtain a better understanding of the banking process. Participants were able to withdraw partial payment of the transfer allowed them to increase savings. ⁵⁷
Considerations	This does not address broader, systemic constraints to food security and livelihoods (e.g. access to finance, inputs, information). It does not address the root causes of poverty and inequality related to the polarization of wealth and land distribution.
Opportunities in Namibia	Look to engage in policy discussions regarding the scale-up of the BIG in Namibia. Link discussion of a basic income transfer to policy discussions of the root causes of poverty.
Partnership Potential	BIG Coalition

Long-Term Priority

(i) Employment-Generating Public Works

Generating employment through public works is a common approach to social assistance that benefits the vulnerable. To be effective, the types of jobs that are created need to be strongly correlated with the capacity of those who are targeted. In some cases, more labor-intensive tasks are unsuitable for PLHIV and best assumed by more healthy family members. Neither the desk review nor the assessment identified any such efforts in Namibia.

Such a strategy could be considered for northern Namibia to develop flood prevention and water management infrastructure improvements. This region has the potential to improve lean season food consumption, improve environmental security, reduce the propensity for natural disasters, and increase income security as food expenditures are reduced. Further research



Figure 4 - Testing the depth of flood waters

⁵⁷ Public Radio International show interview, February 14, 2010.

should be conducted to determine how it could be feasibly implemented, complete an environmental assessment, and determine the complementary activities that can be combined to promote sustainable food and livelihood security effects and outcomes.

Employment Generating Public Works	
Geographic Applicability	North and areas prone to recurrent flooding.
Start-Up Requirements	Ensure moderate to significant funding. Identify projects that are appropriate to PLHIV or their families and an understanding of the likely intra-family distributional outcomes, if appropriate. Ensure strong linkages with the Government of Namibia if not implemented directly by the state.
Timeframe to Achieve Outcomes	Long term
Recommended Entry Point	Individual and/or community
PLHIV Relevance	As mentioned above, the intensity of the labor expenditure required to perform many tasks may make them inappropriate for PLHIV, TB patients and participants with other heavy illness burdens. However, unemployed household members of PLHIV who are not sick could participate instead, and the household could benefit. If the propensity for flooding is reduced or eliminated, all will benefit.
Description	A potential activity in Northern Namibia could include activities to prevent flooding by improving rainwater harvesting, drainage and water erosion. Heavy, often annual, flooding in Omusati, Oshana, Oshana, Oshana and Oshikoto results in displacement, dependence on food aid, increased rates of illness and increased environmental degradation. If targeted carefully, employment-generating public works could improve lean season food consumption, improve environmental security, cut down on cyclical disaster relief food aid and potentially increase income security as food expenditures are reduced.
Advantages	Low-skilled labor is a key asset of the poor, and job creation schemes can be targeted to benefit the more vulnerable. Such schemes could also improve local infrastructure to prevent flooding and improve access to water for agriculture. They would also decrease the need to provide emergency food aid for those involved.
Considerations	Jobs commonly created under make-work programs are strenuous and often inappropriate for PLHIV. Careful attention should be paid to ensure that the food allocation (in a food for work program) or expected increase in food consumption significantly exceeds the energy expenditure to conduct the work, thus ensuring that already

	vulnerable people do not become even more nutritionally vulnerable. Where appropriate, work to ensure local or regional purchase of food commodities to promote and strengthen local producers and markets. Activities should also be developed in coordination with other community-based interventions to promote coordination and synergistic or multiplier effects.
Opportunities in Namibia	Identify opportunities to target public works funding to include vulnerable populations. Identify opportunities where healthy family and/or community members can be targeted, while also benefiting PLHIV through improved access to health clinics, decreased chance of forced displacement, etc. There is currently a water resource management project, CuveWaters, ⁵⁸ working in the affected areas of north-central Namibia. Though their objectives are broader than preventing flood-related natural disasters, they could potentially provide the engineering/technological/environmental inputs.
Partnership Potential	USAID, World Food Programme and Government of the Republic of Namibia. For water infrastructure, the Integrated Water Resources Management in Central Northern Namibia, Cuvelai Delta–CuveWaters. The joint project is funded within the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) program, including technology transfers from Germany’s Federal Ministry of Education and Research.
Programming Guidance	Set wage or asset rates low enough so that the most vulnerable self-select into the program. Make available work options that are not too strenuous for PLHIV. Determine whether PLHIV or family members are the targets of the intervention. Ensure that the work is building longer term assets that promote food security.

Strategic Opportunity #2: Protection of Emerging Livelihoods

PLHIV that have managed to achieve a minimum level of assets and stabilize their consumption patterns are often vulnerable to unexpected health or other shocks that may disrupt their livelihoods. In such situations, it is typically impossible for PLHIV to focus solely or even primarily on profit maximization. Rather, building systems to mitigate the impact of risk is necessary. Such systems may include building assets, managing cash flow and diversifying income streams. Initiatives that work to bolster these risk management systems are important steps in building sustainable livelihoods.

LIFT has identified savings mobilization and supporting legal access and protection within existing projects as two recommended short-term strategies to build safety nets and assets. In the longer term, micro-insurance and legal reform are important contributors to a more secure environment for PLHIV in Namibia.

⁵⁸ Lux and Janowicz, 2009.

Short-Term Priorities

(i) Savings Mobilization

In Namibia, informal savings and loan groups and savings and credit cooperatives are supported by a number of agencies, including Project Hope, the National Agriculture Support Services Program, Rural People's Institute for Social Empowerment (RISE), Namibia Credit Union League, and the Women's Action for Development (WAD).

For PLHIV and their families, savings are particularly important given the increased vulnerability brought on by rising health expenditures and reductions in income flows due to illness. Personal and household savings provide an important safety net that can be drawn upon to cope with a sudden emergency, or used as a source of funding for productive investments. The most widely adopted savings group methodology, based on CARE's Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA), offers several advantages, including relatively short meeting requirements that enable participation by PLHIV, an easy-to-replicate methodology that can be taken up by community-based organizations (CBOs) with limited capacity, the sustainability of many groups following training, and the lack of a need for ongoing subsidization. Facilitating agencies do not provide start-up capital to the group (this has been proven to actually work against group sustainability). Once members have accumulated a minimum amount of savings, they will often begin lending to group members at a group-determined interest rate. Without links to formal institutions, savings groups can operate at low cost and function even in extremely remote, sparsely populated areas.

LIFT learned from key informants that savings-led approaches have been more successful in Namibia to date than have credit-led approaches. The outreach of microfinance institutions (MFIs) is minimal; high transaction costs in rural areas limit their viability. In contrast, savings group methodologies modeled on small groups aggregating their own resources and lending internally are proving more durable. With this approach, no start-up capital is provided by sponsoring organizations. The savings mobilization groups interviewed agreed that "peer pressure" was the motivator for repayment. One successful savings model in the north was targeted at people 61 years of age and older, who used their savings to invest in craft production. Other groups used their savings funds to develop microenterprises or to purchase improved agriculture inputs. However, it is not necessary to use savings only for productive assets. Saving up for periodic expenses or bulk food purchases when prices are low can be attractive benefits of membership in a savings group.

Apart from the ability of an increase in savings to mobilize capital that supports coping strategies and consumption smoothing, savings groups often offer links to other economic strengthening interventions. Although research is still ongoing regarding the most effective approaches to do so, the social capital that is created within the savings groups offers an excellent vehicle to initiate other higher trust activities, such as joint

purchasing of consumer goods (e.g., food, supplements) or agricultural inputs, and joint sale of crops or other products.

Savings Mobilization	
Geographic Applicability	National
Start-Up Requirements	Partners/individuals familiar with savings group methodologies and monitoring systems
Timeframe to Achieve Outcomes	Short term
PLHIV Relevance	Savings mobilization would benefit PLHIV. It would provide a backup fund to help them cope with illness episodes and other issues. Savings can also have an “income smoothing” impact on households, which will greatly benefit households of PLHIV. Savings mobilization also supports secondary (volunteer) caregivers, as a means to help them leverage stipends, smooth consumption, develop reserves of their own, and increase the sustainability and longevity of skill investment in volunteer caregivers. Because groups are self-selected (not selected by the implementing agency), the savings group concept can be introduced to all members of a community, including those who are on ART and the sickly. Opportunities for group members to engage in joint purchase of food or supplements, as well as sale of outputs.
Recommended Entry Point	Community, including both PLHIV and households affected by HIV/AIDS and other community members. Savings groups operate based on self-selection, so PLHIV would determine whether they were able to participate based on their health and the strength of their livelihood activities. Experience elsewhere indicates that even the extremely poor are typically able to engage in savings groups. Other members of a PLHIV’s household may also choose to participate.
Description	Facilitating access by interested community members (both PLHIV and others) to local and regular mechanisms to obtain small quantities of capital that are easily accessible as needed
Advantages	Savings are accessible to the very poor. Saving works well in low-density rural areas that are not attractive to formal financial institutions. Savings develops household assets that increase resiliency in the face of health emergencies or other household shocks. A very low per-client investment cost is required to facilitate establishment of savings groups. There is a strong capacity to link to complementary social and economic services. Savings groups build not only financial capital, but also social capital in the form of group solidarity, problem solving, and recognition.
Considerations	Amounts saved are usually very small at first and act more as an income-smoothing mechanism. Use of savings for business

	investment usually requires several years of asset building, or facilitated linkages to microfinance institutions. Stigma may limit PLHIV engagement.
Opportunities in Namibia	Link with partners who are engaged in facilitating savings groups, either through referrals or invite such partners to address established PLHIV support groups, NACS recipients, home and community-based caregivers, and primary caregivers of OVC to gauge interest in savings mobilization. PLHIV support groups may not be appropriate vehicles themselves given that they include people who live in different areas, but the process of self-selection would allow PLHIV to choose group members with whom they feel most comfortable.
Partnership Potential	RISE, Namibia Credit Union League, Women Action Development (WAD), Church Alliance for Orphans (CAFO), Catholic AIDS Action (CAA), National Agriculture Support Services Program, National Youth Credit Program, Good Hope Women’s Development Forum in southern Namibia.
Implementation Guidelines ⁵⁹	Consider using savings groups in very remote communities and in situations where small savings may serve as a stepping stone to the use of more formal financial services. Require that a strong operating manual and training program be in place to help groups establish themselves and receive training in effective and transparent procedures. Not only should standard training on savings group operations be required for any successful program, but additional coaching on developing social funds and planning for savings use can be especially helpful when HIV/AIDS-focused objectives are integrated with the program. Ensure that groups require minimal outside input and are encouraged to remain autonomous. Once a methodology is put in place through effective training by the organization or another group, savings groups should develop to a level of self-sufficiency. Remember that group meetings represent an opportunity cost to participants and must be used in communities where people are able and willing to meet regularly (at least every month). Some HIV/AIDS projects have found that if savings group members are sick or caring for sick people in the household, they may need to meet less frequently.

(ii) Legal Protection and Advocacy

PLHIV and their families are often particularly vulnerable to exploitation. Relatives often appropriate family assets when men pass away. Women suffer disproportionately due to traditional inheritance systems through the loss of productive assets such as cattle. When adults die, children can be removed from their homes and communities and sent

⁵⁹ James-Wilson et al, 2008.

to live with other relatives and caregivers and may also be dispossessed of assets in favor of customary heirs or executors.

Although the Namibian government does provide support for children whose parents are deceased or unable to care for them in the form of the child maintenance grant, there are administrative hurdles that should be decreased to enable more children to be enrolled.

Although the primary organization that is supporting legal reform in Namibia is the Legal Assistance Centre, many actions to support the rights of PLHIV can be undertaken by modifying existing activities of CBOs supporting vulnerable children and other people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

Legal Protection and Advocacy	
Geographic Applicability	National
Start-Up Requirements	Understand the formal and customary legal context and the roles and rights of PLHIV, women, and OVC.
Timeframe to Achieve Outcomes	Short term for modifying existing programs to more effectively ensure realization of rights; long term for challenging and reforming the current legal system
Recommended Entry Point	Community
PLHIV Relevance	Legal protection and advocacy are critical for PLHIV. Where government does have systems in place to provide support to households and individuals affected by HIV/AIDS, these are often not well understood and difficult to access, resulting in a diluted benefit to fewer than those in need. Ensure that women are accorded the right to inherit productive assets should their partner die. Strengthen the economic security of PLHIV and their households, and prevent people from falling into destitution by promoting reforms to inheritance law, supporting the recognition of “common law” spouses and changing current practices within communities.
Description	There are multiple short-term interventions that would support strengthening legal protection of PLHIV and their families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify succession-planning interventions already in place with many organizations supporting OVC care and support to include greater detail and emphasis on the role of executors (many of whom have a vested interest; surviving family members may not be aware of the executor’s role and responsibility, or avenues for recourse). Guidelines and training for executors could also be produced and rolled out through existing CBO structures.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify succession-planning interventions to ensure that they include updated information on new, simplified provisions and procedures for conferring guardianship. PLHIV households and social workers would be target audiences for this training and support. <p>In the longer term, it would be important to track changes in the Marriage Act, the Child Status Act and the Maintenance Act, as these will all have a bearing on protecting the rights of women and children, especially those affected by the death of a primary caregiver or breadwinner.</p>
Advantages	Household assets represent an important safety net for PLHIV and OVC following the death of a primary caregiver or partner. Investing in the legal protection of existing assets is cost effective relative to generating new assets. Many protections do exist but are not sufficiently understood or exercised.
Considerations	Legal reform is a slow, arduous, and politically charged process. It is shaped by a range of political considerations—such as when the next election is coming—and constitutional imperatives. Some pieces of legislation have been passed, but are flawed, and may only be corrected through precedent-setting trials and constitutional challenges. The LAC is the strongest, and possibly only, organization in Namibia with a focus on law reform that protects the rights of the most vulnerable. They are relatively small, and cover a wide range of issues, including women’s rights, gender-based violence, inheritance and workers’ rights.
Opportunities in Namibia	Work with the LAC to revise existing training and support materials for succession planning, training executors, etc. Work collaboratively with the LAC to identify issues of common concern for potential law reform (e.g., the Marriage Act) and support PEPFAR partners’ abilities to work closely with the LAC in generating evidence or supporting test cases. Support efforts to fill a much-needed gap in access to legal services in Namibia as part of a governance program.
Partnership Potential	Legal Assistance Centre, Yelula
Implementation Guidelines ⁶⁰	Build a path for vulnerable children and caregivers to eventually access more formal services by assisting them in accessing identification or birth certificates. Engage with policymakers on issues that create barriers to effective asset transfer in favor of the child upon the death of parents. In many cases the richest, oldest, or more powerful family members inherit any assets and there is no guarantee they will benefit

⁶⁰ James-Wilson et al, 2008.

	<p>orphans.</p> <p>Recognize advocacy efforts for legal services and community education as necessary preliminary steps to more widespread economic strengthening.</p> <p>In supporting PLHIV, avoid operating outside of national legal frameworks or trying to ignore the law.</p>
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Long-Term Priority

(i) Micro-insurance

Insurance is typically a critical component of individual and family social safety nets. Various products help to reduce vulnerability and risk of a sudden shock to livelihoods, including life insurance, health insurance and asset insurance. They are particularly relevant to PLHIV, their families and OVC.

Micro-insurance is a long-term intervention, given the almost complete absence of private firms that are focused on the rural poor. Extremely low population density and purchasing power both help to explain this gap. Nevertheless, one non-governmental organization (NGO) has worked with the insurance firm Alexander Forbes to establish an insurance plan that would be affordable to the rural poor in general and people affected by or living with HIV/AIDS. Promoting the development of appropriate insurance products that can benefit PLHIV and OVC will require strong, capable private sector insurance providers and technical capacity among implementing partners. A deeper analysis of insurance providers, demand and possible insurance products is required prior to intervening in this area.

Micro-insurance	
Geographic Applicability	National
Start-Up Requirements	Have a relationship with current or potential insurance provider. Understand community demand for insurance products and appropriate delivery mechanisms for example, through ad hoc groups or MFIs. Analyze insurance providers, demand, willingness to pay and possible insurance products prior to intervening in this area.
Timeframe to Achieve Outcomes	Long term
Recommended Entry Point	Community
PLHIV Relevance	Micro-insurance can be an important contributor to building social safety nets that protect assets and cover unexpected expenses incurred in case of sickness, or death.
Description	Insurance products are developed for PLHIV and offered through insurance companies or other capable providers.

Advantages	Insurance can form a critical component of a household's safety net, reducing risk and allowing investments in slightly more risky but higher return activities.
Considerations	Insurance provision is considerably more difficult than credit provision, and requires an experienced partner institution that may be difficult to find in remote areas. Providing insurance to the most vulnerable generates low margins and is not profitable for many institutions. Insurance client groups composed of only PLHIV have very high risk levels and thus are not viable.
Opportunities in Namibia	Identify existing and potential insurance providers that are interested in expanding their clientele. Look at MicroEnsure, MicroCare, and other potential partners not currently operating in Namibia. Look at how savings groups may act as insurance clients.
Partnership Potential	RISE, Alexander Forbes Insurance Group, MicroEnsure, MicroCare.
Implementation Guidelines ⁶¹	<p>Favor an arrangement whereby the program implementer or a local organization such as an MFI acts as local agent for a commercial insurer to reduce operating costs and lower risk. In many cases, linking households with particularly vulnerable children to a private insurer may result in a win-win situation for both groups.</p> <p>Target groups rather than individuals to minimize costs. Bringing groups of clients to insurance companies reduces the latter's transaction costs in terms of marketing and enrolment.</p> <p>Support the use of information monitoring systems necessary for reducing fraud. As fraud is a significant liability in the insurance industry, programs must consider their internal control systems and benefit payment processes (for example, ensuring that life insurance is only paid upon proper documentation of a client's death).</p> <p>When implementing health insurance programs, verify that clinics meet minimum standards of care and are accessible by health insurance subscribers. When working with HIV/AIDS-affected populations, it is important to explore the availability of testing and counselling services, ART, and privacy, as well as whether insurance schemes might offer transport benefits to clinics—often a significant barrier for vulnerable households in rural locations. Include educational programs and financial education training on the unique characteristics of insurance (for instance, clients often mistakenly expect to receive a refund for “unused” insurance). Consider options beyond formal insurance: Strengthen community approaches to help pay funeral costs (for example, co-operative, community, burial societies) or encourage the design of funds to</p>

⁶¹ James-Wilson et al, 2008.

	help orphans pay for funerals or receive benefits when a parent dies.
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Strategic Opportunity #3: Promotion of Enduring Livelihood Opportunities

PLHIV with productive assets and access to safety nets are much more able to pursue income growth strategies. Given the diversity of PLHIV and their livelihood strategies in Namibia, LIFT identified both urban and rural priorities for income growth.

Viable options for livelihood advancement in urban areas are critical to addressing food security among PLHIV in Namibia. Access to non-agricultural income sources such as formal employment, pensions, and petty trade is significantly correlated with improved food security among rural Namibian households.⁶² Research has also found that the most food-secure Namibians are those who are employed and reside in urban areas.⁶³ Advancing non-agricultural options is therefore critical to promoting sustainable livelihoods for many PLHIV and their families. As urban migration trends continue, doing so will become even more relevant.

Rebuilding skills is an important strategy to linking PLHIV to growth opportunities. In spite of high unemployment, many PLHIV, particularly those in urban areas, were employed prior to their illness. The opportunity therefore exists to create bridges to re-employment, building on existing skills and contacts. This is a lower risk and more desirable option than entrepreneurship for many. It is also cost effective, given that a modest investment can update skills and launch PLHIV back into the workforce.

Continued development of the craft sector is another promising opportunity with relatively low barriers to entry and suitable working conditions for PLHIV. Already established initiatives in Namibia point to the feasibility of development in the craft sector and offer the potential to establish linkages to existing firms for fast scale-up. Existing examples within Namibia suggest that there is strong potential for these relationships to be enduring and mutually beneficial. The tourism sector is another dynamic, growing sector that will see significant increases in investment and new service sector wage opportunities. USAID and PEPFAR can support PLHIV living near service hubs or attractions with linkages to skill building and employment.

Nevertheless, while urban options are critical and cannot be overlooked, they alone are not sufficient. The critical role that agriculture plays as a source of nutrition and the income that it provides for many PLHIV, especially in the north-central and northeast, makes it essential to focus upon improving livelihoods within the agricultural sector. Several options exist to increase household food production and storage and improve

⁶² Wieggers, 2009.

⁶³ Ashton et al, 2009.

the income that this production generates. In the short-term, vegetable gardening offers PLHIV and households affected by HIV/AIDS an opportunity to bolster the nutrients that they receive through their current diets with healthy fruits and vegetables. Moreover, small animal husbandry offers income opportunities with low barriers to entry and manageable risks.

Given rural Namibians' reliance on consuming much of what they grow, it is important to promote cultivation practices of staple crops that will increase yields and nutritional values. Chronic malnutrition cannot be resolved with six months of specialized food products provided to PLHIV to treat acute malnutrition, so it is important to identify and support longer term improvements of agricultural practices. This will help ensure that PLHIV and their households have the capacity to increase food production and income, and maintain good nutrition. This will ensure that the gains of a short NACS intervention are not lost by clients returning to food-insecure environments. Advocating for wider adoption of conservation agriculture practices, particularly for *mahangu* production, is an important step in this direction. *Mahangu* is an important staple crop in northern Namibia with promising market demand. It is also labor intensive both in production and processing, and women tend to be actively involved in weeding, caring for the crop, and processing. Indigenous natural products are a second recommended avenue to improving agricultural profitability, though a longer term option given the recent disruptions in international markets. Access to improved grain storage technologies will facilitate higher sales and improved nutrition.

Short-Term Priorities

(i) Small Animal Husbandry

Poultry and small animal rearing require a relatively small area and can be practiced in rural and peri-urban areas. A strong advantage of small-scale animal husbandry for PLHIV is that it can provide both food and income. Income can be generated relatively quickly as animals can be sold throughout the year. Also, small animals can be easily sold locally to neighbors or local markets, implying low transaction costs.

LIFT found limited success with poultry rearing due to diseases that can quickly wipe out a farmer's entire stock. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Forestry (MAWF) and other organizations have started promoting the rearing of guinea fowl. Guinea fowl are indigenous, hardier, less prone to disease, and thus better adapted to the local environment than chickens. Rabbits are another high-value small livestock option that is increasingly promoted locally.

An important benefit of small livestock rearing is that it can contribute to both nutrition and economic security. However, if selected as a programming option it is important to clearly define the primary goal of the programming as either primarily nutrition- or income-oriented. Given the protein-rich nutritional profile of most Namibians and experience to date with small animal husbandry, a focus on selling for income

generation is recommended. Developing small livestock to improve consumption is a less costly and less intensive effort than raising livestock.

Prior to engaging in the opportunity, a more in-depth market study of the selected animals is recommended to determine what types of investments will best support PLHIV. Markets and taste preferences vary in Namibia, and thus sensitivity for the characteristics of the target markets is essential. Expecting to change eating behaviors is challenging, and is likely beyond the capacity of most smaller, short-term projects.

Small Animal Husbandry	
Geographic Applicability	National
Start-Up Requirements	Understand the market, particularly if oriented to income generation or less frequently consumed animals (i.e., guinea fowl and rabbits), and understand how gender affects ownership of animals and sales proceeds. Strong knowledge of good husbandry practices. Conduct a thorough analysis of the constraints to engaging in small animal husbandry (e.g., feed, disease issues), how they can be best addressed, what specific market opportunities are most promising and how PLHIV can best engage in supplying these markets.
Timeframe to Achieve Outcomes	Short term
Recommended Entry Point	Individual or community
PLHIV Relevance	Small-scale animal husbandry is an excellent option for PLHIV, as small animals require relatively little effort to manage and generate income to provide transport to health clinics, pay for health care visits, and cover other necessary expenses. Animals that are not sold can produce eggs and meat for consumption.
Description	PLHIV are supported to expand or initiate animal rearing activities, particularly with guinea fowl.
Advantages	Relatively low human energy input is required. Rearing small animals can easily enhance household nutrition and food security while diversifying household diets. Small animal husbandry is also well suited to a revolving loan fund, and such projects are being carried out in some areas of Hardap.
Considerations	The systemic constraints to enterprise growth are often difficult to address with a small, short-term intervention. Guinea fowl are not commonly eaten in Namibia and so investment would be needed to develop or identify markets. Also, guinea fowl meat requires longer cooking time. The type of fuel used by project participants to cook should be assessed to ensure it does no harm from an environmental perspective. Poultry are susceptible to disease.

Opportunities in Namibia	The MAWF and the Climate Change Adaptation Project are promoting a guinea fowl project in an effort to increase cultural acceptability and promote marketing. Oonte OVC project is piloting raising rabbits.
Partnership Potential	MAWF, Climate Change Adaptation Project, Oonte OVC Centre, RISE, Namibian National Farmers Union (NNFU), Catholic AIDS Action (CAA).
Programming Guidance	Understand the specific market opportunities that will be targeted. Look to address both supply-side constraints (e.g., production challenges) and demand-side challenges (e.g., unfamiliarity with guinea fowl) among consumers.

(ii) Vegetable Gardening

Poor nutrition and micronutrient deficiency are critical issues in Namibia. Given the historical importance of cattle, the Namibian diet mainly consists of protein (meat) and carbohydrates (mainly porridge made of maize or millet). For PLHIV who are using ARV, increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables can bolster nutrition. There are areas close to rivers and early German settlements where small-scale homestead gardening is more common; however, in general, fruits and vegetables are not a common part of the Namibian diet. Most fruits and vegetables available for purchase are imported from South Africa.

Three types of gardens have been promoted in Namibia. The first is community gardens. These are often community projects encouraged by the church or a local NGO. They are planted on community land, and the community takes responsibility for caring for the garden. The produce from the garden is often planned to support a local soup kitchen or other efforts to support the most vulnerable community members, particularly those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Second, there is homestead gardening in rural areas. Homestead vegetable gardening is not widely practiced and tends to be limited to areas where there is higher rainfall. The third type is backyard gardening in urban and peri-urban areas. Like homestead gardens, backyard gardens are regarded by many support services and agencies as a logical nutrition source, yet few urban dwellers practice backyard gardening. Urban agriculture in general has been found to provide a very small proportion of total food needs in Namibia.⁶⁴

Past attempts to encourage vegetable gardening in Namibia have had low success and a high dropout rate. In part this is because they require regular investments of time, water and labor. Lack of cultural acceptance is also blamed for the limited success to date of efforts to promote community and household gardens. Community gardens, as well as backyard peri-urban and urban gardens, were reported to have limited success, particularly without continued presence, inputs and encouragement from outside

⁶⁴ Ashton et al, 2009.

sources or champions. Although communal production systems provide labor insurance to PLHIV, who may face unexpected illness during the production period, LIFT found that individually operated household gardens in rural areas have generally had greater, but still limited success. It is clear that unless very well implemented, the potential for success is modest. Water costs can prove very expensive and so need to be factored into analysis of the activity.

Despite these challenges, gardens have a number of advantages that include the nutritious qualities of vegetables and relatively low (though regular) labor and other input costs. These are important to PLHIV given their nutritional needs, pressure on household labor and reduced income and assets. Given that the Namibian diet is severely lacking in micronutrients, efforts to promote nutrition education and improved consumption of vegetables are severely needed.

A promising entry point is to work with lead farmers who are already gardening and willing to advocate the approach to others. This has proven effective for the Oonte OVC Center in north-central Namibia, which is developing a “replicator model” whereby local volunteers develop gardens, particularly hydroponic gardens, for their households and agree to teach a minimum of three neighbors to produce backyard gardens on their own land. In the south, the Karas Regional Council Office has a community garden and fish pond (permaculture) project that they are using as a demonstration site. They want to work with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development (MAWRD) to develop household gardens, using a demand-driven approach.

Vegetable Gardening	
Geographic Applicability	Central and south regions (possibly higher potential due to cultural acceptability)
Start-Up Requirements	Understand specific nutrient and dietary shortfalls and relative nutritional values of different vegetables. Know the climatic appropriateness of possible vegetables. Understand the market context for income-oriented interventions. Project clients are interested in gardening and willing to invest the time and labor required.
Timeframe to Achieve Outcomes	Short term
Recommended Entry Point	Individual or community
PLHIV Relevance	Home gardens would significantly help PLHIV obtain a better range of micronutrients in their diet, which are vital to increasing energy levels and to helping combat illness. If opportunities for home gardening are paired with NACS, and NACS packages include information about locally available vegetable substitutes or supplements, there is a higher chance of adoption and the sustainability of nutritional gains.

Description	PLHIV cultivate food (particularly vegetables) oriented primarily towards household consumption using local small-scale gardens.
Advantages	Homestead and backyard gardens are owner managed and relatively easy to initiate and require low human energy and agricultural inputs, while enhancing household nutrition and dietary diversity. Household income may also improve to a limited extent.
Considerations	Success of garden projects in the past has been modest. Vegetables are not a valued food source in Namibia. Theft is an issue, particularly in rural areas, and gardens may be ravaged by goats and other animals. Therefore, plans should include adequate fencing and protection. Care should be taken when programming with traditionally nomadic communities. Sustainable access to inputs and extension support is a challenge in some rural areas. Finally, there is a need to understand how to replicate and scale-up small-scale initiatives that have thrived due to highly motivated and capable project staff.
Opportunities in Namibia	Considerable experimentation with community gardens is taking place. Involving children from an early age can eliminate the distaste for vegetables and consequently increase consumption patterns over time. Younger people tend to be early adopters. This provides an opportunity for nutrition education.
Partnership Potential	MAWF, Namibian Agronomic Board(NAB), CAA, CAFO, German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Oonte OVC Center, Ministry of Education, church groups, PLHIV support groups
Programming Guidance	Perform up-front research prior to beginning implementation to understand the nutrition, yield and income potential of particular fruits and vegetables. Focus on indigenous vegetables to mitigate the threat of drought. Encourage production of the most nutritious vegetables.

(iii) Tourism-Related Skill Building

Tourism is an important and fast-growing sector of the Namibian economy. Export earnings from international visitors and tourism goods were expected to generate 15.6 percent of total exports (US\$651 million) in 2008, and to grow to 22.6 percent (US\$2,093 million) by 2018. The Namibian government has recognized tourism to be an important generator of employment, particularly in rural areas where most tourism occurs. Despite the abundance of natural ecotourism assets and relative political stability, Namibia has lagged behind its neighbors in attracting tourists. Whereas South Africa received 9.2 million international visitors in 2007, Namibia received fewer than one million.

Growing private sector investment and complementary donor programming offer new opportunities to build linkages. The MCC has listed tourism as one of its focus

components, developing its first tourism project in the country, totaling US\$67 million. The aim is to generate income and create employment opportunities for vulnerable and poor groups in Namibia, while conserving the natural resources that serve as the foundation of the tourism industry. Employment in the hospitality sector, particularly game lodges, has been promoted by the Namibia Association of Community Based Natural Resource Management Support Organizations (NACSO), with a special focus on PLHIV. The People in Need (PIN) organization in Karas has developed some innovative plans for local tourism. They benefit from the fact that a large percentage of national and international tourism organizers use Keetsmanshoop as the stopover city for trips to Fish River Canyon. PIN works with PLHIV and TB. These new markets offer improved access to employment and income for PLHIV. Therefore, great potential exists to engage with the MCC and others in promoting tourism and tourism related food and livelihood security.

Tourism-Related Skill Building	
Geographic Applicability	National, in areas where tourism is present or growing
Start-Up Requirements	Linkages to potential tourism-based labor markets
Timeframe to Achieve Outcomes	Short term
Recommended Entry Point	Individual
PLHIV Relevance	PLHIV are readily able to develop hospitality and other skills related to tourism. The labor burden would be such that vulnerable people and PLHIV could participate. There are already several NACSO examples where they have specifically targeted PLHIV to work at lodges and on other tourism endeavors.
Description	Support national and local efforts to promote tourism. Work with local tourism groups to ensure PLHIV are seen as viable participants in income-generating activities related to tourism.
Advantages	MCC, the Government of Namibia, and others already have detailed plans and investment funds to grow the industry.
Considerations	Consider whether PLHIV and other vulnerable groups will be excluded because of fears of interaction with tourists, and whether vulnerable groups will receive only the least attractive employment opportunities given their status.
Opportunities in Namibia	MCC and others are investing heavily. This provides the opportunity for smaller organizations and community groups to benefit, provided they have access. USAID and Pact/Namibia could provide support to ensure that these groups benefit from the national interest and investment in tourism.
Partnership Potential	MCC, Government of the Republic of Namibia, NACSO, RISE, PIN
Programming	Assess the number of openings relative to the number of students

Guidelines	trained. Consider informal mechanisms for skill transfer, including apprenticeships.
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(iv) Vocational Training and Skill Building for Workforce Development

Although many rural households are already accessing a range of off-farm income opportunities, without proper education and skills they can obtain only the most menial jobs. LIFT found that there are low-cost opportunities to build people’s skills and help them successfully enter and compete in the wage labor market. For many PLHIV who were already employed prior to falling ill, vocational training represents an opportunity for them to update their existing knowledge and reenter the work force. Low-cost vocational training centers (VTCs) exist in several areas of the country. Some of these specifically target vulnerable youth and OVC and their caregivers, such as those of Katutura Youth Enterprise Centre (KAYEC), Women’s Action for Development (WAD), and the Namibia Institute of Mining and Technology. These centers provide training at lower rates than degree-granting institutions and they work with local partners, NGOs, etc., to provide scholarship opportunities. Importantly, these centers work with employers to connect graduates with jobs: 73 percent of KAYEC’s students gain employment upon graduation. The VTC training programs focus on carpentry, pipefitting, welding and metalwork, masonry, plumbing, auto mechanics, diesel mechanics, information technology, hospitality and sewing.

Although most of the initiatives identified focus on activities traditionally oriented towards men, LIFT found that women are entering into these traditionally male trades and finding jobs. At one of the VTCs visited, the plastering and bricklaying, and electrical and instrumentation instructors were women. The VTCs also were expanding their areas of certification to include more traditional women’s work such as sewing, hospitality and office administration.

Vocational Training and Skill Building for Workforce Development	
Geographic Applicability	Central and Northern Regions where VTCs are located
Start-Up Requirements	Linkages to VTCs, in-house training capacity, or linkages to private firms interested in traineeships
Timeframe to Achieve Outcomes	Short term
Recommended Entry Point	Individual
PLHIV Relevance	PLHIV, OVC and caregivers can benefit from skills building and wage labor, and several VTCs specifically target these groups. Skills and access to employment will provide OVC with opportunities to improve their own food and livelihood security. Certain trades in Namibia, like sewing and crafts, are already geared toward PLHIV in

	some instances and thus time off because of illness is built into the system.
Description	These programs develop the technical and entrepreneurial skills of PLHIV and household members, thus enabling them to access employment opportunities.
Advantages	This programming option is relatively low cost. Importantly, the VTCs are already linked to employers and markets. A high percentage of graduates obtain employment in their area of expertise.
Considerations	The length of existing training options (13 weeks) may not provide sufficient depth and breadth of understanding required for some skills. Thus, developing apprenticeship opportunities might be an important consideration.
Opportunities in Namibia	VTCs have already forged linkages with private firms that are looking for skilled employees. They have also begun to engage firms as partners in the skills certification and training process. Expanding these linkages could build options in new skill areas. There may also be an opportunity to introduce or expand traineeships or apprenticeships with private firms.
Partnership Potential	KAYEC Trust, Namibia Institute of Mining and Technology, WAD, Namibia Training Institute, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (e.g., Inana Artisan Training Center), Omba Trust, Humana People to People Movement.
Programming Guidance ⁶⁵	Require market research to establish the viability of using the skills in question and identify opportunities as well as constraints for program graduates as they try to derive earned income from the training. Invest in quality facilitation of training. Consider certification or quality control processes to ensure graduates leave with marketable skills. Examine skills training programs comprehensively to determine if other needed services, such as finance or assets to start up or expand a business, are available and viable.

(v) Craft Development and Marketing

There is significant potential to support vulnerable people and specifically PLHIV through promoting and supporting Namibia's craft sector. Several organizations are already operating in the craft sector and have a substantial history of promoting local craft production and linking local crafts to local and international markets. Many of these organizations provide a local craft workshop and center for PLHIV, as well as people living with TB, to interact with each other, increase their household income and receive counseling. With high levels of unemployment in Namibia, the crafts sector

⁶⁵ James-Wilson et al, 2008.

offers opportunities for skills training, job creation and income generation, especially for marginalized communities, and it is ideal for the development of small enterprises.

There are a number of potential linkages that can be built within the craft sector with pre-existing initiatives that are described here.

The Omba Arts Trust (Omba) is an independent, non-profit Namibian initiative that contributes to the development of the Namibian craft sector by marketing and promoting a uniquely Namibian identity in crafts and design.⁶⁶ The Trust is the successor of the Rössing Foundation's extensive craft development program and builds on its 15 years of experience and partnerships with sister organizations. The Omba Arts Trust collaborates on training and workshop programs with a number of organizations, in particular those working with the national Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) program and conservancies. The Trust comprises two main components: The Namibia Crafts Centre and Mud Hut Trading. Omba also organizes the Namibia Crafts Centre. The center rents out space to over 30 diverse Namibian craft and tourism-related enterprises and provides a marketing channel for NGOs that engage in craft development projects in Namibia. The number of annual visitors has nearly reached 50,000.

Mud Hut Trading was started in 1992 in response to the need for a marketing body that could support craft producers. It had a small outlet in Windhoek, attracting around 10,000 visitors annually. Today Mud Hut Trading markets a wide range of Namibian made crafts through its stall in the Namibia Craft Centre, and wholesales to customers both locally and internationally. They have presented their products at craft trade fairs in Cape Town, South Africa, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the Netherlands. Mud Hut Trading is a member of the World Fair Trade Organization (and makes great efforts to meet their criteria. It has exported fair trade crafts to the Netherlands and has a current turnover of N\$1.5 million annually. It is working with over 400 producers from several different ethnic groups from 11 regions in Namibia, including the north-central, Kavango, Caprivi, Kunene, Erongo, Otiozondjupa, Omaheke and Karas regions. They form part of a network of small independent community enterprises across rural Namibia, employing traditional and new skills that range from embroidery to paper making; beading to print making. The majority are women who are frequently the bread-winners of their families and bedrock of community life in rural areas.

Karas Huisen Crafts is based in Keetsmanshoop, Karas. It was originally founded as the People in Need (PIN) Project funded by Czech Aid in 2004. The project included a sewing room and craft workshop for women living with HIV and TB patients. The aim of the project was to help vulnerable women develop their craft and business management skills to improve their economic security. Because of the success of the crafts initiative, Karas Huisen Crafts became a local NGO in 2009. The workshop employs 43 local people, 40 of whom are women. They specialize in traditional Nama crafts, including

⁶⁶ Drawn from The Omba Arts Trust brochure.

embroidery, beaded jewelry and decorations, textile dolls, ostrich shell beads and paintings to name a few. Karas crafts are sold online through the PIN Web site. They have a large inventory of stock in their warehouse. They have also begun to accept large orders. Karas Huisen Crafts is currently in the process of writing grants to expand the workshop and open a local gallery and coffee shop. They are also working with the local university to develop internships for graduate students from the art department to work with Karas on expanding their line of crafts.

Finally, the NACSO is an association composed of 15 NGOs and the University of Namibia that supports local craft enterprises as well as natural resource management.

Together these organizations, as well as others, offer the potential to support livelihood and food security improvements for vulnerable people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, TB, and other illnesses. The potential for improving the livelihoods of vulnerable women is very strong. They have developed mechanisms to not only provide training and support, but also to link local crafts producers to international markets, thus leading to sustainable improvements in skills, food security and overall livelihood security.

Craft Development and Marketing	
Geographic Applicability	National
Start-Up Requirements	Linkages with current or potential purchasers (preferably through craft firms but potentially direct to end markets)
Timeframe to Achieve Outcomes	Short term
Recommended Entry Point	Community
PLHIV Relevance	Many current craft groups, organizations and workshops specifically target women, PLHIV, OVC and people living with TB. Craft production is normally light work and can be undertaken at home and even part time. Income from crafts comes into the household throughout the year.
Description	Support established craft producers and marketing groups to employ PLHIV to produce crafts for local, regional and international markets. Support Omba Arts Trust to reach out to new communities in northern communal areas (NCA) and the south of Namibia.
Advantages	Omba Arts Trust has many years of experience with engaging communities in the design and production of local crafts. Through Omba's trading component, it has ready access to the local and international market. Karas Huisen also has considerable experience; however, it needs to branch out to new markets to expand its sales. Mud Hut Trading is member of the WFTO, hence a

	fair price and return for the producers is guaranteed, including the promotion of community projects. Karas Huisen has a proven track record of expansion and graduation to a self-supporting local NGO. Both Omba and Karas have a considerable stock of crafts and are ready to expand. There is huge potential to create a vibrant craft industry in Namibia.
Considerations	Though Omba Arts Trust and Karas Huisen are more established players, other craft-related business development opportunities should be pursued. Craft development and marketing will have a positive impact on a limited number of people—the “industry” is such that it is unlikely to be a mass employer, but it can be linked to Namibia’s expanding tourism industry as well as, potentially, a limited export market.
Opportunities in Namibia	With the MCC’s efforts to boost the tourism industry—from one million to 10 million visitors in the next five years—there will be new opportunities to sell crafts locally. Also, wholesaling of craft can be further developed as there are currently few sales to lodges. The boost that Millennium Challenge Account – Namibia (MCA-N) offers to Etoshe National Park offers exciting opportunities for craft expansion. Craft producers may also be linked to lodges to provide soft furnishings (pillow covers, lamp shades, in-room decorations) for both rooms and for sale.
Partnership Potential	Omba Arts Trust, Karas Huisen, MCC, CBRNM, NACSO, Centre for Research and Information Action in Africa (CRIAA SA-DC), Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), Penduka.
Programming Guidance	Be guided by the strong lead firms already existing in Namibia.

Long-Term Priorities

(i) Conservation Agriculture

In Namibia, traditional agricultural practices are important reasons why yields are low in the communal areas. Improved agricultural techniques will significantly improve yields, prevent soil depletion and contribute to improved food security at the household level.

Conservation agriculture (CA) is a methodology that is recognized internationally for its benefits and has already been piloted in north-central Namibia. The pilot focused on applying CA techniques to improve the production of *mahangu*. *Mahangu*, also known as pearl millet, is an important subsistence crop in Namibia. It is a major staple food in the north that is well adapted to the low rainfall and soil conditions of the north-central regions and Kavango.

LIFT found that there are significant unexploited market opportunities for *mahangu*. *Mahangu* millers in Namibia are unable to access adequate quantities of the crop and are consequently operating under capacity despite strong consumer demand. They are looking for new sources of supply. Drought in 2007 and floods in the following two years exacerbated this market imbalance. Moreover, the Namibian Agronomic Board will start buying mahangu for the silos that have been constructed by the Government of Namibia. This provides an opportunity for *mahangu* producers who increase their yields and wish to market their surplus. Moreover, there are compelling opportunities for the Namibian Mahangu Millers and Producers Association (NAMMPA) to link *mahangu* producers to mechanized equipment that reduce labor requirements and increase yields. Leasing or other mechanisms would constitute a “win-win” for both producers and millers. Small-scale “walking tractors” are being promoted by KOMEHO that cost about 7 percent of the price of a tractor and that could be jointly operated by a group.



Figure 5 - Farmer weeding mahangu

For PLHIV, there are many advantages to adopting CA. The approach saves labor, spreads labor out, and reduces the overall and peak effort required while lowering costs. It also reduces the amount of weeding required, which further saves scarce labor. Soil fertility increases, improving yields that can be retained for immediate or future consumption, or sold to meet other household expenses. CA techniques also recommend intercropping *mahangu* with another crop like cow peas, which contributes to the dietary diversity of PLHIV. For PLHIV who are vulnerable to shocks such as sudden illness and lack other sources of labor (e.g., family members), informal labor sharing groups may help to reduce the risk of crop failure.

Evidence suggests that promoting adoption of CA techniques will increase yields significantly. NAB’s ConTill pilots in 2005 and 2009 sparked significant adoption by local farmers, of whom 70 percent are women. The result has been increased yields, the ability to spread labor more evenly throughout the year, and less time spent weeding. There is currently unmet demand by farmers to learn these techniques: ConTill has 70 applications to join the program that it is unable to accommodate.

Conservation Agriculture (CA)	
Geographic Applicability	Northern Namibia (areas of <i>mahangu</i> production)
Start-Up Requirements	Links to agencies with technical knowledge in CA including NAD, Namibia Resource Consultants (NRC) and NNFU, or in-house technical capacity; availability of complementary technologies
Timeframe to Achieve Outcomes	Long term
Recommended Entry Point	Individual or community
PLHIV Relevance	Conservation agriculture allows farmers to spread labor requirements over longer periods of time. PLHIV and their families will significantly benefit, because the intensity of the labor required is reduced under CA. Enhancing the production of staple foods means that scarce cash can be used to support transport and other medical costs associated with HIV/AIDS, and the sale of surplus will boost household incomes. Encouraging and promoting the adoption of intercropping strategies will have a beneficial nutrition effect on PLHIV and their families.
Description	Work with farmers, the majority of whom are women, to shift from traditional agricultural techniques to CA. CA builds on people's traditional crops and practices, modifying them in ways that reduce labor and increase both yields and, in the case of intercropping, access to nutritious foods.
Advantages	The labor and income requirements can be spread out throughout the year as fields can be plowed (ripped) at any time in the year. Ripping reduces the amount of weeding needed. It reduces land degradation and improves soil fertility. Importantly, it can significantly increase <i>mahangu</i> yields by 3 to 5 ⁶⁷ times. This will provide increased income throughout the year and improved food security. Fertilizer is also directly applied, rather than broadcast, in CA approaches, saving scarce financial resources.
Considerations	Currently, farmers already pay for mechanized plowing so this is not a major obstacle. However, there is no adequate access to the specialized tractors and equipment required. Technical assistance on increasing yields, improved storage, marketing sales and business acumen will be required as yields increase.
Opportunities in Namibia	NAMMPA, which represents grain producers, wants to promote commercial production of <i>mahangu</i> . Nambi Mills has processing facilities all over the country and wants to grow its business but cannot access adequate supplies of <i>mahangu</i> . The NAD, NRC,

⁶⁷ Evaluation data from Namibia National Farmers Union Pilot Project.

	and NNFU, in collaboration with MAWF, are developing plans to scale-up the introduction of CA. KOMÉHO is also working to produce low-cost plows/rippers and storage technologies that will facilitate CA adoption among farmers.
Partnership Potential	MAWF, NAB, NNFU, NAMMPA, FAO, European Union
Programming Guidance	Work with the private sector to leverage their capital and expertise.

(ii) Indigenous Natural Products

Indigenous natural products (INP) are those that are native to an area, and derive from natural sources, including particularly plants. Namibia is an important producer of INP in southern Africa, with thousands of producers exploiting products including marula, devil’s claw, Kalahari melon seed, hoodia and ximenia. Importantly, north-central Namibia is a critical hub for INP activities. INP can play an important role in improving livelihoods in the northern region given that they can thrive in an environment of erratic rainfall patterns that threaten many conventional crops.⁶⁸ For PLHIV particularly, INPs are important given their low labor requirements. Most plants can be gathered, not cultivated. As many stocks can be found in the proximity of homesteads, this offers the opportunity for part-time collection. Moreover, there are a number of existing producer associations that can be approached to build linkages, and MCC is funding the development of high-value INP-linked opportunities in northern Namibia. Two higher potential INP—marula oil and devil’s claw—are described in more detail here. These markets have suffered from the international economic downturn and thus are likely to represent long-term opportunities as markets recover.

Marula oil is a particularly common INP. The marula tree is a native of north and northeast Namibia and a very important fruit and shade tree, utilized by people and animals. A number of products are produced from the marula tree. The fruit flesh, which is nutritious and high in vitamin C, is eaten fresh; the juice is drunk unfermented as a beverage, or is fermented to make wine that may be further distilled to make brandy. The kernel is edible, and oil extracted from the kernel is protein-rich; it is eaten with porridge and also used for cooking, as well as for dressing hides and leather. The oil and fruit are also exploited commercially for use in cosmetics and for the production of alcoholic beverages. The fruit can be used as an insecticide. The leaves and bark are also used medicinally.⁶⁹ It is estimated that US\$700,000 can be generated annually from the one million marula trees in Namibia.⁷⁰ Moreover, there are opportunities to process marula juice if the required upfront investment (approximately US\$400,000) can be mobilized.

⁶⁷Natural Futures Programme, 2007.

⁶⁹ <http://www.biodiversity.org.na/treetlas/SpPDFs/Sp516.pdf> .

⁷⁰ Natural Futures Programme, 2007.

The Eudafano Women’s Cooperative (EWC) in the north-central regions currently comprises 6,000 women from 20 associations and is a potential linkage opportunity for PLHIV extractors. Registered in 1999, it has linked with international buyers such as the Body Shop International to market marula oil. EWC now operates an oil extraction factory (opened in 2005) with four hydraulic oil presses, a recently purchased screw press, three hydraulic juice extractors, and two manually operated juice extractors. EWC has worked with EcoCert to obtain organic certification in 2007, leading to a 50 percent increase in the price they earn for their product (i.e., €22.48 per kg versus €15 per kg).

In the short term the economic recession has dampened marula oil’s economic prospects and sales are likely to diminish from current levels. In the longer term, renewed growth in this market is likely.

Namibia is the world’s largest producer of devil's claw, an indigenous perennial prostrate vine that grows in deep Kalahari sands. The secondary storage tubers that grow off the main root are used to treat a number of ailments, including particularly rheumatism and arthritis. Demand grew substantially in the 10 years leading up to 2002, at which time an estimated 10,000 people were involved in the value chain.⁷¹ Currently, there are four identified buyers of devil’s claw operating in Namibia, who are serving a small niche market. As with marula oil, however, the economic recession has reduced demand significantly. One of the key informants mentioned that four containers are on hold for exportation.

Overall, there has been considerable investment of public, donor, and private resources, including by PhytoTrade Africa, in the Namibian INP industry over the past 12 years. Many of these investments have been aimed at pilot product and market development. These investments are now resulting in increased market demand, prompting a need to increase the volume and value of raw and value-added exports from Namibia. At present, a poorly organized supply base, fragmentation of the supply chain, and inadequate working capital all limit growth. MCA-N is poised to become a major investor in INP through an expected US\$6.71 million in investments. A portion of this will be oriented to improving the volumes, quality, and value addition opportunities of farmers’ organizations harvesting marula, devil’s claw, hoodia, Kalahari melon seed, and ximenia. The engagement of women and young adults is a priority for MCA-N. Other crucial investments will be made in supporting public and private innovation and the provision of market information through the National Botanical Research Institute.

Indigenous Natural Products	
Geographic Applicability	National, although hoodia is mainly found in the south
Start-Up Requirements	Links to producer associations, buyers, and markets; sources of INP
Timeframe to	Medium- to long-term due to current decline in market demand.

⁷¹ http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-83058-201_101191-1-IDRC_ADM_INFO.html.

Achieve Outcomes	
Recommended Entry Point	Individual or community
PLHIV Relevance	INP can often be found in the proximity of homesteads, and collection can be undertaken as a part-time activity. Some INP, such as devil's claw, are hard to harvest, while others such as marula is relatively easy to collect. To some extent, processing can be done at home (cottage industry) but depending on the technology applied, can be labor intensive. Generally, INP offer great potential for women's participation, as the success story of EWC proves.
Description	Work with local groups, PLHIV, women, and OVC to develop INP. Help develop marketing strategies. Link to private sector efforts. Strengthen efforts by existing institutions (i.e. CRIAA SA-DC, and Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources) and programs like MCC for natural product development, including organic certification and value addition.
Advantages	Knowledge and expertise in indigenous natural product promotion and marketing are available in Namibia, and many value-adding technologies and ideas are just awaiting adequate resources to be developed. By teaming up with the appropriate institutions and experts, groundbreaking results can be achieved over time and as the market glut subsides.
Considerations	Growth in the INP industry is currently stagnant due to the high product costs and the glut in the world market. It also suffers from a poorly organized raw product base, a fragmented and limited supply chain and labor inefficiencies. Various initiatives are underway to attempt to reverse the trend but will only succeed if adequate resources are available.
Opportunities in Namibia	The acceptance and registration of marula oil, as food (oil), on the European market is supported by GTZ. There is potential to process marula fruit into juice if the upfront investment capital can be mobilized. There is also the opportunity to work with CRIAA SA-DC and others to reverse the current downward trends in Namibian INP development and marketing. Finally, the leaves from certain trees (e.g. moringa) can contribute to household nutrition.
Partnership Potential	CRIAA SA-DC, EWC, NNFU, Hoodia Growers' Association of Namibia, NBRI, GTZ, MCC, Directorate of Forestry (working to propagate high-yielding marula varieties that will increase tree productivity)
Programming Guidance ⁷²	Recognize and address complementary difficulties that do not lie at the primary producer level, but can impact their success—in other words, be aware of the needs, strengths, motivations and limitations of other actors in the value chain. Recognize that not all PLHIV can

⁷² James-Wilson et al, 2008.

	<p>immediately engage in these types of projects, particularly those suffering from severe health issues. Focus on projects that lead to increases in productivity and/or add significant value to the final product. Channel support to projects that focus on sustainable production, distribution and sales achieved mainly through private sector channels. Target subsidies to only those instances where there will be no effect on long-term pricing and the sustainability of production/distribution market relationships. Avoid underwriting ongoing business costs for micro-entrepreneurs.</p>
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(iii) Improved Grain Storage

An important finding of the LIFT assessment is the need for improved grain storage in northern Namibia. In the north-central region, proper grain storage is a major problem and stumbling block to improved grain yields, market sales, and consumption. The current form of grain storage is highly inadequate and results in up to 30 percent losses, according to the Namibian National Farmers Union. The nutritional quality of the remaining grain is frequently degraded by insect infestations. The majority of households use traditional granaries to store grain throughout the year. The traditional granary is a large spherical woven basket or bin. These large baskets are made of Mopane branches and interlaced with strips of Mopane bark. Their capacity varies from 250 kilograms to three tons of grain. Ash or leaves



Figure 6. Traditional grain storage

are traditionally used to prevent insect infestations, but with very limited success. The small quantities of grain produced make individual storage technology appropriate at present, though in the medium-term or long-term community-based technologies may become more viable as volumes increase.

If not addressed, the lack of adequate grain storage technologies will limit the benefits of increasing farmer yields. Food security is threatened by the great loss in crops following harvest. The insecurity of grain storage increases the incentives to quickly sell or consume the produce, thus weakening an important safety net for PLHIV in case of sudden illness. Maintaining the nutrition integrity of the grain is an important consideration for this group, as dietary quality is critical to support the immune system.

Improved grain storage could significantly contribute to improved food security and nutrition at the household level. Efforts to increase crop yields through measures such as conservation agriculture (mentioned previously above) will need to be coordinated with storage improvements to have maximum effect. This will ensure that the increased harvest is adequately stored, allowing farmers to store grain for sale throughout the year and particularly during times of higher prices. This acts as both an income-smoothing mechanism and an asset-building mechanism for PLHIV. It will also allow farmers, the majority of whom are women, to maintain greater grain reserves for consumption during the lean season or in times of crisis. Improved storage will also help to maintain the nutritional quality of stored grains for significantly longer periods of time.

Improved models for storage are already available in Namibia. KOMEHO's Rural Development Center has been working to improve access to improved grain storage. KOMEHO constructs and sells tin silos at their centers throughout Namibia, which are accessible to much of the population. Building linkages for production within the VTCs (e.g. Katutura Youth Enterprise Center, KAYEC) is another option. However, the current capacity of PLHIV to afford these technologies or obtain financing to acquire them is weak. As crop yields and storage volumes grow, community-level storage facilities should be investigated so as to benefit from economies of scale in bulk storage.

Improved Grain Storage	
Geographic Applicability	Northern Namibia
Start-Up Requirements	Understand the incentives, costs and benefits of modifying existing storage structures for project clients. Have suppliers willing to sell their technologies in rural areas. Develop methodologies that allow PLHIV to purchase storage technologies despite limited income (e.g. savings groups).
Timeframe to Achieve Outcomes	Long term
Recommended Entry Point	Households affected by HIV/AIDS; later, communities as grain storage requirements grow.
PLHIV Relevance	PLHIV require a higher caloric intake to meet the demands of illness. Improved storage has the potential to improve nutrition, food and economic security of PLHIV.
Description	Work with partners to help farmers obtain improved storage silos.
Advantages	Improved nutrition outcomes from the fact that improved storage will maintain the nutrition quality of the food stored. Improved storage will allow for food to be stored until market prices increase, thus allowing PLHIV to sell high-quality grain throughout the year at higher prices. This will result in both increased income generation as well as income smoothing. Better storage will also lead to increased household food access throughout the year, and therefore

	improved household food security.
Considerations	Improved storage should be accompanied by improved agricultural practices, such as CA, that have been proven to increase yields. Improved storage must also include training on improved grain conservation techniques, including specifically insect control.
Opportunities in Namibia	Poor quality storage, as an important factor in food insecurity, was recognized in the early 1990s by CRIAA and others. Improved storage bins are available in various sizes and costs from the rural development centers run by KOMEHO. Vocational training centers might also be encouraged to construct lower cost storage silos for sale to small-scale farmers at reduced prices. As grain yields grow, the emphasis should shift to community-level storage facilities.
Partnership Potential	MAWF, NFUU, NAB, KOMEHO, KAYEC Trust.
Programming Guidelines	Focus on areas with the highest rates of grain loss. Identify storage technologies that reflect household purchasing power and other preferences.

3.2 Options Not Recommended

LIFT considered but ultimately rejected other livelihood options that were either economically unpromising or not beneficial for PLHIV.

Large Livestock

The sale of livestock is the third most important contributor to total household income, after pensions and government grants. Improving animal health and marketing systems both have strong potential. However, women face serious legal (inheritance) and socio-cultural challenges to operating in the livestock sector. Moreover, the cultural value of large livestock causes their sale to often be governed by non-economic considerations.

Large-Scale Horticulture

Government regulations that encourage local sourcing of horticultural products to reduce imports are creating new demand. Nevertheless, lack of water and low production volumes impede access by other smallholders to these markets. The amount of labor required for large-scale horticultural production is a challenge for many PLHIV.

Wild Silk

Namibia is home to an indigenous moth called *Gonometa postica*. San communities have used the moth cocoons for rattles or as delicacies for thousands of years, but there has been increasing reaction against the moths given the often fatal consequences of livestock ingesting the cocoons. In the face of this, several initiatives are working to commercialize the very high quality silk that has traditionally been allowed to rot. The development of an indigenous silk industry that practices controlled harvesting of the

cocoons and production of silk has the potential to take advantage of strong income opportunities; world demand for wild silk exceeds current production levels by 12 percent.⁷³ Silk production can simultaneously reduce livestock losses and create employment through processing. However, despite this potential, the size of the industry is extremely small and cannot absorb large numbers of PLHIV or their family members.

⁷³ <http://www.criaasadc.org/wildsilk.htm>.

Appendix I. Resources Reviewed

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Appendix II. Stakeholders Involved

LIFT conducted the Namibia desk assessment in December 2009. The field assessment took place in February and March 2010. The field work included meetings with government, PLHIV, private firms, international NGOs, and local CBOs, and other key stakeholders with a particular emphasis on those whose efforts target PLHIV. In all, more than 40 stakeholders, organizations and institutions participated in the LIFT Food and Livelihood Security Assessment including:

1. Bicycle Empowerment Network
2. Church Alliance for Orphans (CAFO)
3. Catholic AIDS Action
4. Climate Change Adaptation Project, part of MAWF
5. Centre for Research Information Action in Africa
6. Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst
7. Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance II
8. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
9. German Development Corporation & German Development Service
10. Honorable Chair of Luderitz Constituency
11. Karas Huisen Crafts
12. Katutura Youth Enterprise Center (KAYEC)
13. KOMEHO Rural Development Organization
14. Legal Assistance Center (LAC)
15. Manufacturing Consultancy Services
16. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)
17. Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry
18. Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare (Windhoek and Keetmanshoop)

19. Ministry of Health and Social Services (MOHSS)
20. Mud Hut Trading
21. Namibia Association of Community Based Natural Resource Organization
22. Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI), Windhoek Branch
23. Namibia Community Based Tourism Association
24. Namibia Network of AIDS Organizations
25. Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB)
26. Namibian National Farmers Union (NNFU) – Windhoek
27. Namibian National Farmers Union (NNFU) Field Extension Office - Oshakati
28. National Youth Council
29. OMBA Trust
30. Oonte OVC Organization
31. Oshakati Regional Council HIV/AIDS
32. Pact, Inc.
33. People in Need (PIN)
34. Project HOPE
35. Rural People’s Institute for Social Empowerment
36. Southern Namibian National Farmers Union
37. UNICEF
38. United States Agency for International Development
39. University of Namibia, Faculty of Agriculture & Natural Resources
40. U.S. Peace Corps
41. World Food Programme WFP)

Appendix III. Linkage Opportunities

Four methods were used to identify potential implementers or resource partners that can support or actively manage the programming options that are presented. These included a comprehensive review of the available documentation, Internet research, a review of two member directories (the Namibian Development Directory 2008 and the NANASO and information gathered during the field assessment.

Organization Name	Contact information	Relevant information
Church Alliance for Orphans (CAFO)	Phone: +264 (0) 61 269572 Fax: +264 (0) 61 269574 Email: cafo@iway.na	CAFO provides support in the following areas: food and nutrition education, economic strengthening (income generating activities— gardens, fish farms, goats, chickens, rabbits, sewing projects), psycho-social support, shelter and care, food support and protection. CAFO provides all children with support in at least three intervention areas.
Catholic AIDS Action (CAA)	http://www.caa.org.na/	Founded in 1998, by Dr. Lucy Steinitz and Dr. Raphaela Händler through the Namibian Catholic Bishop’s Conference, as Namibia’s first church-based response to the country’s HIV /AIDS crisis, which had already reached pandemic proportions. It has since grown to be the largest NGO responding to HIV/AIDS in Namibia, currently operating 14 offices in 9 of the 13 regions.
Bicycling Empowerment Network (BEN)	http://benbikes.org.za/namibia	BEN is an organization focused on building livelihoods through bicycles. BEN sets up community-based Bicycle Empowerment Centres (BEC) that sell and service bicycles. In the process, they create employment and strengthen market and employment linkages through bike distributions. A portion of profits from BEC operations are donated to other social issues, including micro-lending. As of the end of 2009, BEN had created 22 bike shops, generated 90 jobs and distributed 12,000 bicycles. BEN is one of the livelihood-focused partners of Pact/Namibia.
Centre for Research Information Action in Africa (CRIA), a Southern Africa Development and Consulting Group (SA-	http://www.criaasadc.org/	A membership-based NGO that supports rural communities, particularly the poorest members of society, to benefit from sustainably produced indigenous natural products and smallholder crops through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening the capacities of national, regional and local operating bodies including government departments, local authorities, NGOs and producers' organizations in the private sector (including co-operatives)

DC)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contributing to the capacity of marginalized communities or members of society to improve their livelihoods <p>CRIAA SA-DC in Namibia undertakes applied research and consultancies in program and project appraisal, monitoring, evaluation and management in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agricultural and rural development, post-harvest research and development, botanical resources - Linking producers and markets - Primary producers' issues, from natural resource management to sustainable utilization - Informal sector, small-scale industry and technology and skills development - Producers' organization - Capacity building and co-operative development
Faculty of Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of Namibia/Namibia International Center of Excellence (NICE)		Promotes sustainable agriculture and natural resource management through teaching, research and extension services to communal and commercial farming communities. Also works to increase small business and rural communities' income through new approaches to agricultural value chain education.
Family Health International (FHI)/Namibia	http://www.fhi.org/en/AboutFHI/index.htm	<p><u>The Community Faith-Based Regional Initiative for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (FABRIC):</u> FABRIC is a five-year partnership between FHI and three umbrella faith-based organizations (FBOs) in Namibia, South Africa, and Zambia. The objective of the program is to strengthen and expand services for OVC. The initiative uses sustainable strategies to provide comprehensive OVC care and support.</p> <p><u>Reaching Youth:</u> The youth program targets youth to build their capacity to avoid unsafe sexual practices and to cope with the impact of HIV/AIDS.</p> <p><u>Building NGO Capacity to Provide Workplace Programs:</u> The Workplace Program builds the capacity of local NGOs and institutions to provide comprehensive HIV/AIDS workplace programs to the private, public, state and local government sectors.</p> <p><u>Building Municipalities' Capacity to Respond to HIV/AIDS:</u> The Capacity-Building Program for Municipalities is aimed at ensuring that selected municipalities are equipped with knowledge, skills, and resources to respond to HIV/AIDS.</p>

		Care and Support for OVC: Under the guidance of the National OVC Task Force, the OVC program supports a set of holistic initiatives implemented by the government as well as FBOs and NGOs at the regional and national levels.
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	FAO-NA@fao.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Date Palm Project (with support from the Government of Namibia) - Conservation Agriculture - Women and Development - Junior Farmers Field School programs have ended. Findings report that the project was non-sustainable. When FAO and Peace Corp pull out, gardens collapsed - Small-scale irrigation under the Green Scheme
German Development Corporation (GTZ) and German Development Service (DED). These two entities are merging.	http://www.gtz.de/en/praxis/16992.htm	GTZ is engaged in a 10-year partnership for economic growth with the Namibian Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, and National Planning Commission. Beginning in 2005, the program has focused in three areas: microfinance, developing business services, and building an enabling environment for MSMEs. To date, learning platforms have been developed for several of their focus areas (e.g., local economic promotion) and they have formed a national microfinance bank.
Humana People to People Movement	http://www.humana.org/	An international membership organization of 32 national associations working in 40 countries. Has established one vocational training centre in Namibia reaching 500 people. The Child Aid and Environment Project is run by <i>Development Aid from People to People (DAPP)</i> in Namibia. The project is working on child care development and services, preschool education, and to address issues of child abuse.
Inana Artisan Training Centre	http://www.uptv.org/ch13.php#	Based in the Ohangwena region, the Centre is a micro-enterprise development initiative funded and supported by the UN Development Programme (UNDP). The project provides vocational training in professions such as carpentry, metal work, and dressmaking, and helps graduates get jobs in their respective fields or start up their own small businesses.
Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)	14 Nachtigal Street PO Box 6566 Ausspannplatz Windhoek Namibia +264 61 240514 Fax	The IPPR conducts quarterly business confidence and retail surveys and monitors the business climate. They also disseminate their research findings, and promote free and critical public debate – based on quality research.

	+264 61 240516 info@ippr.org.na www.ippr.org.na	
Karas Huisen Crafts	www.nama.cz	Karas is a crafts workshop. They produce a wide variety of handcrafts, sewn crafts, bead crafts, and are expanding into embroidery (logos, labels, and workshop bags) with local logos for t-shirts, caps, and workshop bags. They employ 61 people, predominantly women with HIV/AIDS. They are trying to expand. Karas currently exports mainly to the Czech Republic. GTZ just placed a large order for logo beaded workshop bags. They would like to establish their shop for larger, commercial-size orders. Karas also provides women with business training so they can start their own small businesses. This particularly helps women who live on farms and do “piece-work” for Karas.
KAYEC Trust	http://kayectrust.org	Since 1994 KAYEC has provided practical, market-oriented artisan skills training for marginalized young people from centers in Katutura and Ondangwa. The vocational training provides young people with an entry-level package of trade skills that give motivated graduates the opportunity to enter the job market. Vocational skills training is offered in Windhoek and Ondangwa. Courses vary from 6 to 12 weeks with a choice of 10 trades: carpentry and joinery, metalwork, fabrication, plumbing, pipefitting, decorating, glazing, tiling, precast and fencing, and information technology. KAYEC has successfully trained 941 young people and caretakers in basic artisan skills that should enable them to enter the formal or informal sector with level 1 or level 2 certification. It also provides them with basic business skills and training in HIV/AIDS and life skills. In 2007, KAYEC began linking vocational skill training graduates and other interested people to a 9-month business support and mentoring service in Kavango, Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena, and Oshikoto regions. Particular attention is paid to those in rural areas, conservancies, and resettlement farms.

KOMEH - Namibia Development Agency	Postal Address: P.O. Box 8466 Windhoek, Namibia Phone: +264-61-230450 Fax: +264-61-240343 E-mail: KOMEHO@iway.na	KOMEHO's rural development centers manufacture, obtain, and sell farm machinery and tools (walking tractors, grain storage, latrines, hammer mills), and offer agricultural technical assistance to small-scale farmers in farming techniques, small-animal husbandry, seed banks, and natural resource management. KOMEHO works with CRIAA SA-DC to development market linkages, and with youth on vocational training.
Labor Resource and Research Institute (LaRRI)	info@larri.com.na	LaRRI researches issues related to livelihoods, including export processing zones, farm workers, the informal economy, poverty, inequality, and basic income grants.

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)	http://www.mcc.gov/blog/povertyreduction/category/namibia/	A long term partner of Namibia that signed its 18 th compact in 2008. Major priorities are education, ecotourism, and agriculture, for which it has invested US\$302 million. The north is a particular area of focus for the MCC.
Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Forestry (MAWF)	www.mawf.gov.na/	Provides agricultural extension services, though outreach is limited. Provides TA on peri-urban and urban gardens. Climate Change Adaptation Project. Brings together 7 government ministries into country-pilot partnership for integrated land management.
Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS)	www.moh.gov.na	Improves health and nutrition.
Mud Hut Trading and OMBA	40 Tal Street P.O Box 24204 Windhoek, Namibia Tel/Fax + 264 61 242799 To contact Namibian Craft Centre Tel/Fax: +264 61 242222 To contact Mud Hut Trading Tel/fax: +264 61 242799 and 24285	OMBA provides training and capacity building. Trains clients in business and money management, quality control, marketing, etc. Works with local populations to produce crafts as micro-enterprise development program. Focuses on mainly traditional crafts specific to the various regions. In some cases, also teaches craft-making and produces new product lines. Mud Hut buys the crafts from local producers and sells them in local, regional, and international markets.

Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB)	30 David Merero Street • P O Box 5096 • Ausspannplatz • Windhoek Tel +264 61 379 500 • Fax +264 61 225371 • Email address: nabdesk@nammic.com.na	Issues import/export permits for products that are duly gazetted as controlled crops, including maize, wheat, fresh fruits, and vegetables.
Namibia Association of Community Based Natural Resource Management Support Organizations – (NACSO)		Provide skills on: Institutional development–governance and institutional issues; assistance with financial and business planning. Business Enterprise and Livelihoods–Community Enterprise Support Project (CESP) is designed to improve the livelihoods via sustainable enterprises based on tourism, crafts (with OMBA), and natural products (with CRIAA SA-DC—marula, devil’s claw, and hoodia in north, and just hoodia in the south). Natural Resource Management(NRM) management plans, etc. Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS within programs for communal groups and all partner organizations and behavior change communication (BCC) with conservancy groups
Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI)	Tel +264 61 379 500 • Fax +264 61 225371 • Email address: nabdesk@nammic.com.na	Focus on: Advocacy, conferences/summits, trade facilitation, information sharing, networking, capacity building, certification export documents (certificates of origin), medical aid for MSMEs (partnership with Namibia Health Plan), retirement scheme for MSMEs (partnership with the Retirement Fund Solutions)
Namibia Community Based Tourism Association (NACOBTA)	http://www.nacobta.com.na/what_we_do.php	A nonprofit membership organization that supports communities in their efforts to develop and operate tourism enterprises profitably and sustainably.
Namibian National Farmers Union (NNFU)	info@nnfu.com.na	Improved food and livelihood security interventions aimed at small farmers and cattle farmers. Policy and advocacy to support small farmers and farmers associations. Capacity building of small producers to help small producers understand income potential and marketing, livestock health, business skills. Staff working with PLHIV on kitchen gardens and nutrition counseling focusing on positive living approach.
Namibia Training Authority (NTA)	http://www.nta.com.na/	A legal entity established by the Government of Namibia that is responsible for vocational training and education. The NTA contributes to establish an effective and sustainable system of skills formation that is aligned with the needs of the labor market and provides skills required for accelerated development. In this system, competencies are developed that are needed for productive work and increased

		<p>standards of living. Moreover, the NTA promotes access, equity, and quality in vocational education and training.</p> <p>NTA is involved in quality control of training providers, including registration, development quality management systems and ongoing monitoring. It is also involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the NTA curriculum.</p>
Nyae Nyae Conservancy	http://africastories.usaid.gov/search_details.cfm?storyID=103&countryID=16&sectorID=0&yearID=3	The first conservancy gazetted in the community-based natural resources management (CBNRM) program in 1998. Concluded negotiations with a trophy hunting company for a tender of over N\$1 million annually over the next five years.
Oonte OVC Organization (North Central Region)	oonte@iway.na	The Oonte site is a huge demonstration and training center. It has a large vegetable garden, a hydroponics garden area, and a fish pond that is getting ready for its second harvest of Tilapia. Water from the local stream (<i>oshana</i>) is used to maintain water levels as well as water the garden. They have pigs, chickens, guinea fowl, and rabbits. All OVCs participate in the farming and other activities.
People in Need (PIN)-Karas		<p>Health: People in Need (PIN) helps patients suffering from tuberculosis finish treatment and helps those suffering from the most advanced form of AIDS to become accustomed to the difficult treatment regime, which is a condition for using antiretroviral drugs. Clients taking part in the project come to the contact center each day where they are given food, and under the supervision of the trained personnel, take the prescribed drugs. Clients also have the possibility to discuss their health and psychological problems with other clients and experts.</p> <p>Social Services: The community center in the city of Keetmanshoop offers psychological and social services and provides the opportunity for families suffering from HIV/AIDS to earn income through sewing and other crafts production. PIN helps caregivers who take care of children orphaned as a result of AIDS to gain social benefits. The caregivers—most often grandmothers of the orphans—have a right to limited social support, that provides basic food to keep them out of absolute poverty. Social workers address domestic violence, the stigmatization against HIV/AIDS or tuberculosis. They also work to motivate their clients and the public to undergo HIV or</p>

		TB tests and not to hide the fact that they are HIV positive.
Project Hope	www.projecthope.org	Registered as an independent organization. Areas of focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening the capacity of caregivers to provide comprehensive care and support to improve the well-being of children - Providing micro-loans and conducting savings mobilization for OVC caregivers to engage in small-scale income generation activities - Creating an OVC-targeted educational curriculum covering essential OVC care and support - Mobilizing a network of community-based volunteers who are trained through a training of trainers methodology on the specialized OVC educational curriculum
Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)	http://www.vso.org.uk/Images/namibia-secure-livelihoods-summary-aug07_tcm79-20575.pdf	VSO has supported communities to turn natural resources into marketable products (crafts). VSO's experience in business and enterprise development contributes to laying a foundation for community members to become sufficiently business-oriented to seize opportunities to earn an income and enhance their living conditions through tourism (e.g., community-based tourism and joint ventures with private investors). VSO/Namibia has a strong and unique partnership with NACSO and has been working with some of its member organizations for more than 10 years, building a reputation as an organization that understands development issues and in particular, the development needs of disadvantaged people in rural areas. VSO has been providing a range of financial and administrative skills to strengthen the management capacity of NGOs who in turn provide appropriate and relevant community-based natural resource management services to communities in rural areas.
Women's Action for Development (WAD)	http://www.kas.de/proj/home/home/8/2/webseite_id-1660/index.html	A self-help organization that aims to uplift the socio-economic and socio-political situation of primarily rural Namibian women. The organization was established in 1994 and is active in six regions (Omusati in the north, Kunene in the northwest, Erongo in the west, Otjozondjupa in the central east, Omaheke in the east and Hardap in the south), with the intention of expanding to all 13 regions depending on funding. WAD receives its core funding from the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, a German NGO, together with various other international and local donors. WAD small-scale initiatives include the following:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic training in hygiene, nutrition, family planning, child development care, HIV/AIDS awareness - Market-led skills development training - Enterprise start-up small grants (equipment or materials) - Ongoing mentoring and backstopping - Training on how to start a savings club
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USAID-funded organizations in Namibia include the following:

1. Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance II (FANTA-2)/FHI360
2. Namibia Institute for Democracy
3. Namibia Nature Foundation
4. NawaLife Trust
5. World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
6. Pact, Inc.
7. Population Services International

PEPFAR-funded organizations in Namibia include the following:⁷⁴

1. FANTA-2/FHI360
2. Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia
3. Comforce
4. Development Aid People to People, Namibia
5. EngenderHealth
6. Family Health International (FHI)
7. IAP Worldwide Services, Inc.

⁷⁴ As of 2007, the last year in which the PEPFAR’s website had been updated at the time of publication. <http://www.pepfar.gov/partners/103015.htm>

8. International Laboratory Branch Consortium Partners
9. IntraHealth International, Inc
10. Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs
11. Macro International
12. Management Sciences for Health
13. Ministry of Health and Social Services, Namibia
14. Namibia Institute of Pathology
15. Organization for Resources and Training
16. Pact, Inc.
17. Partnership for Supply Chain Management
18. Potentia Namibia Recruitment Consultancy
19. Project HOPE
20. Public Health Institute
21. Royal Netherlands Tuberculosis Association
22. The Futures Group International
23. University of Washington
24. University Research Corporation, LLC
25. U.S. Agency for International Development
26. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
27. U.S. Department of State
28. U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration
29. U.S. Peace Corps
30. World Health Organization