

PROGRAMME CONTEXT

THE NEED TO RESPOND TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES IN NAMIBIA

THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS AND PRACTICES FOR ENHANCING CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION, WITH A FOCUS ON POLICY OVERSIGHT AND IMPLEMENTATION

THE NEED TO FACILITATE PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIPS AMONG STAKEHOLDERS TO ENSURE BUY-IN AND COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



EPDN PROGRAMME



"Enhancing Participatory Democracy in Namibia" (EPDN),
a Partnership Programme of the Government
of Namibia and the European Union



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EPDN Programme

Background

The 'Enhancing Participatory Democracy in Namibia' (EPDN) Programme is implemented in the framework of development cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Delegation of the European Union to Namibia. Financed under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), the Contract for the Programme started in July 2020 and will last for five years until June 2025. Due to Covid-19 pandemic related restrictions, the actual operation of the Programme started in November 2020.

The Programme is designed as a demand-driven intervention to enable responses to the socio-economic challenges and development priorities in Namibia, in the framework of its constitutional provisions, national development policies and continental and global developmental agendas Namibia has signed. The Programme is based on recognition of the need to strengthen governance institutions and practices for enhancing citizen's participation, with a focus on oversight of policy and programme implementation.

Objectives and expected results

The objective of the Programme is to *contribute to national development goals, through the strengthening of collaboration and coordination between Parliament, Civil Society Organisations and other Government bodies in the implementation and oversight of public policies and programmes, thereby enhancing participatory democracy in Namibia*. Three distinct but interlinked results are expected to be achieved by the Programme: 1) Civil Society Organisations and Parliament have increased capacity to collaborate and coordinate in the oversight of public policies and programmes; 2) Civil Society Organisations and Government have increased capacity to collaborate and coordinate in the implementation of public policies and programmes, in particular, but not restricted to, the sectors of education and skills and rural development; and 3) Awareness among key stakeholders and the general public about this project and overall programme 'Enhancing Participatory Democracy in Namibia' is enhanced.

Key Activities

The key activities of the Programme include, but not limited to: 1) Undertaking dialogue and collaboration between Civil Society and Parliament, with special attention to women and minorities, on policy and programme oversight at national and regional levels; 2) Increased involvement of Civil Society in the budget development process through enhanced engagement with Parliament; 3) Enhancing public awareness of and access to Parliamentary activities and policy debate; 4) Assisting Government in the implementation of the Civic Organisations Partnership Policy (COPP); 5) Providing support and advice to grant beneficiaries in narrative and financial reporting; 6) Conducting awareness raising activities to key stakeholders and the general public focusing on engagement, lesson learning and sharing of knowledge



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for enhancing participatory democracy in Namibia; 7) Undertaking analyses of the state of Civil Society in Namibia including the state of the enabling environment for Civil Society and participation of Civil Society in public policies and programmes; 8) Providing capacity development support to Programme stakeholders and 9) Conducting relevant studies and researches on cross-cutting issues such as gender, environment, rights-based approaches, good governance and inclusive development, human rights, participatory budgeting, partnerships, policy analysis and dialogue, etc.

Grant project activities under the Programme are implemented by the following Civil Society Organisations: 1) Regain Trust (RT) on 'Strengthening CSOs Participation in the Education and Life Skills Sectors'; 2) Development Workshop Namibia (DWN) on 'Improving Sanitation in Informal Settlements and Containing the Spread of Hepatitis E'; 3) Hanns Seidel Stiftung (HSS) and Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN) on 'Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management'; 4) Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation Trust (IRDNCT) and Namibia Development Trust (NDT) on 'Strengthening Participation of Conservancies in CBNRM Policies and Programmes' and 5) Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) on 'Strengthening Community-based Natural Resource Management'.

Key Stakeholders

The National Planning Commission is the main Client of the Programme, acting on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia. The key target groups and beneficiaries of the Programme are the Parliament (both the National Assembly and the National Council) and the diverse Civil Society Organisations in Namibia. A Programme Manager at the Parliament coordinates the technical implementation of the Programme. Various Government Ministries, Offices and Agencies are also involved in the Programme. Beyond financing, the European Union Delegation to Namibia acts as a key partner to the Programme.

Management Structure

A Programme Steering Committee (PSC), chaired by the National Planning Commission, provides strategic guidance and key decisions for the Programme. The PSC's membership includes the National Assembly, National Council and three representatives of Civil Society Organisations in Namibia with voting right. The European Union participates with a non-voting status. Key Government OMAs and other international development partners also participate on ad-hoc basis. The Technical assistance Unit provides secretariat service to the PSC.

Overall Objective:

*To strengthen collaboration
and coordination between
Parliament, Civil Society
Organisations and
Government bodies in the
implementation and oversight
of public policies and
programmes*

Duration:

July 2020 – June 2025

Funding:

EUR 6 Million
(11th European Development
Fund - EDF)