



Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Health and Social Services



Namibian Social Contracting Policy

Strengthening Health and Social Services through Civil Society Partnerships

The Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) has introduced a policy for social contracting of CSOs to deliver essential health services in line with national health priorities. The Policy will guide the MoHSS and other relevant stakeholders to contract with CSOs to provide essential health and social services to Namibia's population, especially vulnerable people, key populations, and hard-to-reach communities.

The Policy bridges the gap between community needs and service provision, utilizing the reach and trust of CSOs to address health and social challenges funded by domestic resources from the government budget.



VISION:

All people of Namibia enjoy good health and social well-being by accessing universal, inclusive, equitable, and efficient quality services delivered through the social contracting mechanism.



MISSION:

Advance the delivery of comprehensive health and social services to all citizens of Namibia by implementing effective social contracting methods aligned with UHC principles.



GOAL:

Establish robust guidelines for the government's contracting with CSOs to provide equitable, accessible, and affordable health care to all, sustained through domestic financing mechanisms.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



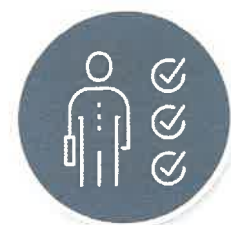
Policy Objective



Social contracting is a process through which the GRN will form an agreement with CSOs to provide health services that the government is responsible for. The government will provide funding to CSOs through contracting mechanisms guided by the Public Procurement Act. Civil society will deliver identified services to communities. The government will measure and pay for results achieved under the contracts through payment-for-results models.

Policy Benefits

Social Contracting will enable the government and CSOs to improve access to quality health services within the communities where they are easier to reach, at no cost, especially for marginalized populations, improving their acceptability, ownership and community involvement.



Legal and Regulatory Framework



Article 95 of the Namibian Constitution supports social contracting, promoting policies for equitable access to public facilities and services. Various Acts, such as the Public Procurement Act and the National Welfare Act 1965, outline the eligibility criteria and contracting requirements for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).



Selection of CSOs

Application and selection criteria will be specified for each contract in line with public procurement requirements. Eligible CSOs must be registered with the National Welfare Board, demonstrate capability in delivering health services, and comply with the legal and regulatory requirements above.



Financing

The MoHSS will mobilize resources from domestic budgetary allocations and development partners to finance service provision through the social contracting model.



Governance and Oversight

The MoHSS will oversee the policy implementation, ensuring resources are used appropriately to deliver quality health services that meet the needs of communities.



Monitoring and Accountability

The MoHSS at the national, regional and community level will monitor the quality of services provided to ensure they satisfy the communities.



Services/Disease Areas Covered

The Policy covers a wide range of public and social services areas, focusing on Namibia's most pressing health and social challenges, including HIV, maternal and child health, mental health and non-communicable diseases like cancer, amongst others.



Role of Civil Society

CSOs will be contracted through a competitive process to deliver services to communities leveraging their unique experience, reach and trust by communities.



Frequently Asked Questions

❓ What is social contracting in health services?

Social contracting in health services refers to a partnership between the government and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) where the government contracts CSOs to deliver specific health services.

❓ How does social contracting contribute to improving public health outcomes?

Social contracting improves public health outcomes by harnessing the capabilities of CSOs to provide healthcare services, especially to underserved or hard-to-reach populations. It aims to leverage the unique strengths of CSOs, such as their close ties to communities and ability to reach marginalized groups.

❓ How are CSOs selected for social contracting?

CSOs are selected for social contracting through a competitive process based on several factors defined by the legal framework. These include their registration with the National Welfare Board, capacity to deliver, and track record in working with communities.

❓ What legal framework governs social contracting in health services?

The Constitution and multiple Acts, including the Public Procurement Act, National Welfare Act, and Companies Act, among others, guide Namibia's legal framework for social contracting. These laws outline the registration requirements, accountability measures, and terms of engagement for CSOs.

❓ How is the effectiveness of social contracting measured?

The effectiveness of social contracting is measured through strong monitoring, evaluation, and performance systems. These systems track resource allocation, monitor service delivery, and measure performance against defined indicators.

❓ How does social contracting ensure the equitable distribution of health services?

Social contracting promotes the equitable distribution of health services by leveraging the reach and expertise of CSOs to deliver services to marginalized and hard-to-reach populations who might otherwise have limited access to such services.

❓ What are the funding sources for social contracting in health services?

Funding for social contracting primarily comes from the government, with resources mobilized from available budgets. Additional allocations may come from external funding sources like development partners providing supplementary support.

❓ What services or disease areas are covered under social contracts?

Social contracting is a flexible tool that the government can use to respond to identified health system gaps/needs. The specific health services or disease areas depend on the opportunity and can include HIV/AIDS, mental health, etc.

❓ How does the government ensure accountability and transparency in social contracting?

The government ensures accountability and transparency in social contracting through rigorous competitive process and robust monitoring and evaluation systems. Regular audits, value-for-money assessments, and community feedback mechanisms are also implemented.

❓ How can a CSO become eligible for social contracting in health services?

To become eligible for social contracting in health services, a CSO must be registered with the National Welfare Board, demonstrate capability in delivering health services, and comply with the requirements in the National Welfare Act, the Companies Act, and the Financial Intelligence Act.

Further Information

The Executive Director's Office:

The Executive Director

Mr Ben Nangombe

Ministry of Health and Social Services

Private Bag 13198, Windhoek, Harvey Street

Tel: +264 61 203 2019/20

Fax: +264 61 224155

Email: ED@mhss.gov.na

Website: www.mohss.gov.na