

NAMIBIA, AFRICA



GEOGRAPHY



Location: Southern Africa, bordering S. Atlantic Ocean, between Angola and South Africa

Total Area: 825,318 sq. km.

Borders: Angola, Botswana, South Africa, and Zambia

Climate: Desert—hot, dry, with sparse rainfall

Water: 0 sq. km

Terrain: Mostly high plateau, Namib desert along coast and Kalahari Desert in east

Land Use: Arable land: 99%, Permanent crops: 0%, Other: 99.01%

Natural Resources: Diamonds, copper, uranium, gold, lead, tin, lithium, cadmium, zinc, salt, vanadium, natural gas, hydropower, fish

Irrigated Land: 60 sq. km.

Environmental Issues: Limited natural freshwater resources, desertification, wildlife poaching

PEOPLE AND CULTURE



Population: 1,954,033

Age Structure: 0-14 years: 42.4%, 15-64 years: 54%, 65 years and older: 3.5%

Life Expectancy: 42.36 years

Birth Rate: 33.51 births/1,000

Fertility Rate: 4.65 children/woman

Infant Mortality: 72 per 1,000 births

Ethnic Groups: Black: 87.5%, white: 6%, mixed: 6.5%

Languages: Afrikaans: 60%, German: 32%, English: 7%

Indigenous Languages: Oshivambo, Herero, Nama

Religions: Christianity: 80-90% (at least 50% Lutheran); indigenous beliefs: 10-20%

HIV/AIDS (adult rate): 1 in 5

People Living With AIDS: 210,000

ECONOMICS

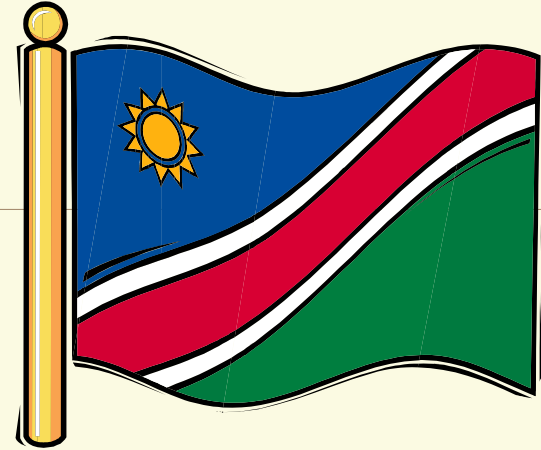


- Heavily dependent on the extraction and processing of minerals for export
- Half of the population depends on subsistence agriculture
- Industries: Meatpacking, fish processing, dairy, mining
- Mining: Diamond, lead, zinc, tin, silver, uranium, copper
- Agriculture: Millet, sorghum, peanuts, livestock, fish
- Import about 50% of grain/cereal requirement
- Labor force by occupation: agriculture: 47%, services: 33%, industry: 20%
- Unemployment: 35%
- 50% of the population is below poverty, with incomes of less than \$1,400 per year

HISTORY

- During its first years of occupation, Namibia was a German colony known as South-West Africa.
- During WWI, the country was occupied by South Africa and then was taken over by South Africa after WWII.
- In 1966, a guerilla group started a war for independence and renamed the area Namibia.
- In 1988, South Africa ended its involvement in Namibia.
- Independence followed in 1990 with multiparty elections and the establishment of a constitution.

GOVERNMENT



Type: Republic

Capital: Windhoek

Independence: March 21, 1990

Suffrage: 18 years of age, universal

Constitution Ratified: 1990

Executive Branch: Chief of State: President Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, elected by popular vote for a 5 year term

Legislative Branch: Bicameral legislature with cabinet appointed by president from member of national assembly

Judicial Branch: Supreme court, legal system is based on Roman-Dutch law and 1990 constitution

PROBLEM

Illiteracy:

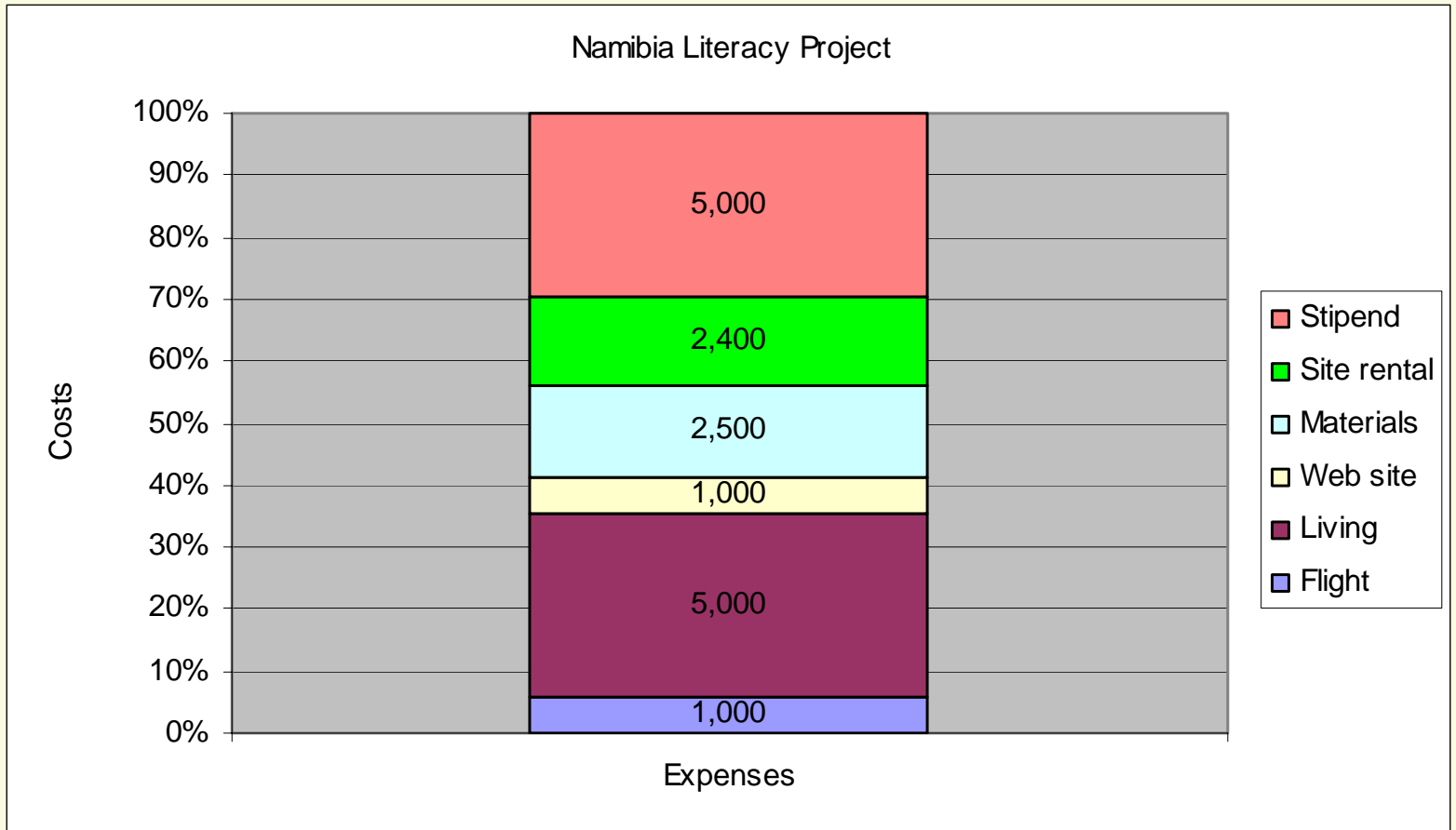
- 62% of adult population (over age 15)
 - 55% of males
 - 69% of females
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- Namibia's people are striving for a higher literacy rate.
 - Illiteracy often affects women and poor rural people the most.

PROJECT

Ideas for solution:

- Establish adult-literacy tutoring program targeting women
- Train adult-literacy leaders
- Develop literacy curriculum
- Create a Web site to solicit donations for a library

PROJECT BUDGET



SOURCES

- An Introduction to Namibia (www.geographia.com/namibia)
- CIA World Fact Book: Namibia
(www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/wa.html)
- Namibia in a Nutshell
(www.grnnet.gov.na/Nam_Nutshell/History/History.htm)
- Namibia World Desk Reference
(www.travel.dk.com/wdr/NA/mNA_Intr.htm)
- Peace Corps Countries: Namibia
(www.peacecorps.gov/countries/namibia/index.cfm)