



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**BUDGET MOTIVATION STATEMENT**

**VOTE 13: MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**25/26 FINANCIAL YEAR**

**BY**

**HON. DR. ESPERANCE LUVINDAO, MP  
MINISTER**

**06 MAY 2025**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

*\*Check against Delivery.*

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,  
Honourable Members,**

1. I rise to introduce and motivate for the budget for Vote 13: Ministry of Health and Social Services. I commend Hon. Ericah Shafudah, Minister of Finance and Hon. Dr Kaire Mbuende, Director General of the National Planning Commission, for a well-crafted and articulated budget.
2. For the 2025/2026 Financial Year, the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) is allocated an amount of Twelve Billion, Two Hundred, Sixty Eighty Million, Three Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$12,268,372,000). This about 4.4 % of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 11.5% of total budget expenditure and 8.2% or N\$927.4 million better than the previous year allocation.
3. Vote 13 is comprised of Five (5) Main Budget Programs through which key health and social services are provided under this Vote, which is one of the bedrocks for social development and transformation of our country.
4. Today, I will share with this august House some of the major achievements and program outputs under Vote 13, which were recorded during the 2024/25 budget cycle. Additionally, I will outline how the Ministry intends to utilize the funds allocated under the 2025/26 Appropriation Bill. The Summary of accomplishments and key activities proposed funding are as follows per program and sub-programs:

**PROGRAM 01: HEALTH SYSTEM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT**

**Achievements in 2024/25:**

5. Over the past year, the Ministry prioritized the development of Namibia's digital health infrastructure and data systems, recognizing their critical role in improving health service efficiency and policy formulation:
  - 5.1. **Digital Infrastructure Expansion:** All hospitals and 23 health centres successfully installed network infrastructure, laying the foundation for Namibia's e-Health System. Moreover, tenders were awarded for an additional 18 health centres and 30 clinics for infrastructure extension; five centres and 18 clinics are already operational, ensuring widespread real-time access to patient records and health information.
  - 5.2. **Enhanced Data Management:** The Ministry expanded health data collection to over 90 clinics beyond district and hospital levels, strengthening community-level

health monitoring. Civil registration improvements included increasing the Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) completion from 45% to 70%, with forensic autopsy reporting over 90%, and ICD 11 for mortality reporting is being implemented.

- 5.3. **Public Health Information:** Better mortality data has enhanced health planning, resource allocation, and targeted interventions across disease programs.

### **Planned Activities for 2025/26:**

6. Building on this strong foundation, the Ministry is requesting for the allocation of **N\$62,522,000** to further refine health data and policy support, including detailed epidemiological analysis and research. Additionally, The Ministry will prioritize the review of the National e-Health Strategy 2021 – 2025, to advance work on a TeleHealth Policy, which aims to improve access to essential healthcare services in rural areas by leveraging digital technologies.
7. Under this program, the Ministry will also continue to expand and strengthen digital network infrastructure to include additional clinics.
8. Moreover, the Ministry will prioritize the roll out of the next edition of the National Demographic Health Survey, which is integral to establishing accurate and up-to-date health data which would inform health policy development and implementation.

## **PROGRAMME 02: CURATIVE AND CLINICAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

### **Achievements in 2024/25:**

9. The past year saw critical investments in health infrastructure and technology:
  - 9.1. **Oxygen and Medical Equipment:** Installation of oxygen generating plants at Windhoek Central, Okakarara, Swakopmund, and Keetmanshoop hospitals improved emergency and maternal neonatal care. A total of 152 infant incubators, 123 Cardiotocography (CTG) machines, ICU monitors, and ECGs upgraded neonatal and critical care capacities.
  - 9.2. **Oncology Services Upgrade:** The cobalt-60 radiation machine at Windhoek Central was upgraded, elevating cancer treatment capabilities, leading to more precise and effective oncology interventions.
  - 9.3. **Dialysis Expansion:** Two new dialysis centres were established at Katutura and Oshakati, with five more nearing completion in Keetmanshoop, Walvis Bay, Katima Mulilo, Otjiwarongo, and Rundu, expanding equitable access for chronic kidney disease patients.

### **Planned Activities for 2025/26:**

10. The Ministry is requesting for the allocation of **N\$11,517,164,000** to clinical services, prioritizing the replacement of outdated equipment, expansion of specialties, and ensuring continuous medicine supplies. Key initiatives include:
  - 10.1 **Procurement Vehicle Development:** Establishing a dedicated procurement mechanism to streamline sustainable supply of medicines clinical items over five years, reducing shortages and enhancing transparency. Despite global disruptions, the Ministry is actively implementing multiple strategies to enhance the pharmaceutical supply chain, including the following:
    - 10.1.1 **Sourcing Strategies:** Exploring alternative procurement methods to secure consistent supply levels.
    - 10.1.2 **Distribution Channels:** Improving logistics and distribution networks to ensure timely medication availability at health facilities.
    - 10.1.3 **Construction of New Central Medical Stores:** Developing a state-of-the-art facility to accommodate increased inventory and improve service levels.
    - 10.1.4 **Data Systems:** Enhancing annual quantification and quality data collection methods to achieve an 80% service level target, through electronic inventory systems like the Electronic Dispensing Tool, Stock Cards and Pharmaceutical Dashboard.
  - 10.2. **Supply Chain Resilience:** Upgrading the Central Medical Stores' logistics and storage capacity to achieve an 80% service level, up from 57%. This will involve procuring a new CMS storage infrastructure, enhanced logistics systems, and robust inventory management.
  - 10.3. **Critical Care Expansion:** Completing renovations for ICU units in Gobabis, Mariental, Rundu, and others, alongside expanding neonatal and adult ICU capacity, will bolster Namibia's preparedness for health emergencies and reduce mortality from critical illnesses. The addition of ICU facilities in Opuwo, Outapi, Engela, and Nankundu Hospitals will further decentralize critical care, ensuring timely interventions especially in remote areas. These enhancements are vital for managing severe cases, improving patient survival rates, and handling national health emergencies effectively.

### **PROGRAMME 03: PUBLIC HEALTH**

#### **Achievements in 2024/25:**

11. The Ministry demonstrated boldness in strengthening Namibia's public health infrastructure and response capacity:

- 11.1. **Emergency Preparedness:** The establishment of the Namibia Institute of Public Health (NIPH), approved in March 2024, as a department within the Ministry. It will serve as a central hub for epidemiology, outbreak response, research, and policy development, greatly enhancing Namibia’s capacity for early detection and management of crises.
- 11.2. **Outbreak Responses:** The Ministry effectively activated outbreak response mechanisms against cholera, mpox, and malaria. Public awareness campaigns, rapid response teams, and targeted spraying diminished disease spread and boosted community confidence.
- 11.3. **Malaria Control:** Following the declaration of a malaria outbreak in December 2024, IRS campaigns covered around 85% of targeted structures, supported by insecticide procurement and distribution of long-lasting nets. Community engagement efforts intensified to improve cooperation, vital for reducing transmission.
- 11.4. **HIV/AIDS Response:** Namibia has been lauded for making great progress towards achieving the UNAIDS 95-95-95 global targets, with 93% of all people living with HIV (PLHIV) aware of their status; 95% of those aware of their status being on antiretroviral treatment (ART); and 98% of those on ART virally suppressed. Above 90 % of persons receiving antiretroviral therapy have transitioned to the more efficacious Dolutegravir Regimen. The Ministry continues decentralizing Antiretroviral therapy (ART) services through Differentiated Service Delivery models and enhancing ongoing prevention efforts through combination prevention methods as well as to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. ART coverage stands at 95%.

**Planned Activities for 2025/26:**

12. The Ministry is requesting for the allocation of **N\$114,365,000** to public health, focusing on:
  - 12.1. **Operationalizing Namibia Institute of Public Health (NIPH):** Establishment of the Institute, as a Department within the Ministry, with strengthened surveillance, research capacity, and emergency response readiness.
  - 12.2. **Disease Prevention and Control:** Intensify malaria elimination efforts with expanded IRS coverage and resistance management. Continue to strengthen HIV and TB programs, including community testing, treatment access, and sustainable financing mechanisms like the "Roadmap" and "Social Contracting" initiatives.
  - 12.3. **Immunization & Maternal-Child Health:** Expand vaccination campaigns, improve surveillance, and invest in laboratory capacities to reduce morbidity and mortality.
  - 12.4. **Non-Communicable Diseases & Disability:** Continue expanding access to assistive devices and rehabilitation services—aiming for continuous growth in

prosthetics, wheelchairs, physiotherapy, and speech therapy—ensuring inclusive development.

- 12.5. **Health Promotion:** Launch community campaigns focusing on behavioural change, nutrition, and environmental health to foster healthier lifestyles and resilient communities.
- 12.6. **HIV/AIDS Response:** Although funding cuts have raised concerns about access to antiretroviral medications, I wish to clarify that the Government of Namibia has been procuring these medicines since 2016 and will continue to do so. Recent waivers issued by the U.S. government to Namibia have allowed some continued support under the US-CDC Cooperative Agreement with the Ministry, although USAID-funded activities have been suspended. These supported activities relate mainly to HIV and TB prevention programs.
- 12.7. The Ministry remains committed to sustaining HIV and TB services through integrated health delivery models, recognizing the critical importance of national ownership of special disease programs previously funded and supported by the U.S. and other international donors. To create a favourable policy environment for this commitment, the Ministry developed strategic initiatives aimed at ensuring the sustainability of these programs. For instance, the "Roadmap Towards the Sustainability of HIV, Viral Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Control in Namibia," launched in November 2024, outlines a comprehensive framework for long-term health strategies. Additionally, the "Social Contracting for Health Policy," launched in October 2023, enables collaboration between the government and civil society organizations, fostering a coordinated approach to health service delivery and enhancing community engagement in the fight against these diseases. Together, these efforts demonstrate the Ministry's dedication to building a resilient health system that prioritizes local ownership and sustainability.

## **PROGRAMME 04: DEVELOPMENTAL SOCIAL WELFARE**

### **Achievements in 2024/25:**

13. In social welfare, the Ministry advanced efforts to support vulnerable populations:
  - 13.1. **Rehabilitation & Support Services:** The Etegameno Rehabilitation Centre served adults through inpatient substance use treatment, with a capacity of 16 beds. The Ministry developed pilot outpatient programs for alcohol and drug dependence, rolling them out across three regions and planning national expansion.
  - 13.2. **Family & Community Support:** Initiatives promoting family well-being, mental health, and violence prevention continued, including support services for victims of gender-based violence and suicide prevention.

### **Planned Activities for 2025/26:**

- 14.1. With **N\$ 37,423,000 requested for allocation**, the Ministry, through targeted programs in all 14 regions, will prioritize the promotion of family well-being; parenting; prevention of alcohol and drug abuse and rehabilitation of these patients; prevention of suicide, as well as services to persons affected by suicide; integrated services to persons affected by sexual- and gender-based violence; and administration of policies and legislation regulating registration and operations of welfare organizations and residential care facilities for older persons and alcohol and drug rehabilitation centres in the country.
- 14.2. The Ministry will also prioritize the Expansion of the Etegameno Rehabilitation Center to cater for patients under the age of 18 years.

## **PROGRAMME 99: POLICY CO-ORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Achievements in 2024/25:**

15. The Ministry successfully accomplished several infrastructure and human resources milestones:
  - 15.1. **Facilities and Equipment:** Completion of clinics in Shamaturu, Gcaruhwa, Oshikulufitu, TB wards at Keetmanshoop, and upgrades at major hospitals like Windhoek Central. Improvements included backup power systems and water infrastructure to ensure operational reliability.
  - 15.2. **Human Resources:** Approval of 11,742 new positions has been granted over 6 years. The estimated cost to fill these positions is N\$ 4,550,935,085. For FY 2025/2026 an allocation of N\$ 150 million was made. This allocation can only accommodate for the recruitment of 434 positions. Further engagements are to be undertaken on funding modalities for the Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks. The ongoing rollout of the Integrated Human Resources Information System (IHRIS) has strengthened workforce management and deployment.
  - 15.3. **Policy Adoption:** The unanimous approval of Namibia's Universal Health Coverage Policy in February 2025 marks a transformative step toward equitable health access.

### **Planned Activities for 2025/26:**

16. The Ministry is requesting for the allocation of **N\$ 536,898,000** towards:
  - 16.1. **Human Resources:** Filling remaining vacant posts, especially specialists, with emphasis on underserved areas, by allocating N\$150 million in this budget, is essential for strengthening Namibia's healthcare capacity. The ongoing

deployment and development of a pool of technical specialists in pediatrics, obstetrics, surgery, internal medicine, anesthesiology, and critical care will enhance service accessibility and quality across the country. The full implementation of the Integrated Human Resources Information System (IHRIS) will continue to optimize workforce planning, deployment, and performance management.

- 16.2. **Infrastructure Development:** The Ministry will prioritize the construction and upgrading of critical health infrastructure, including nine new clinics and two health centres in remote areas such as Onamukulo, Uuvudhiya, and Oranjemund. Upgrades at major hospitals, including Gobabis, Swakopmund, Katutura, and St. Mary's, will expand capacity, modernize facilities, and improve patient care standards. The development of a new Windhoek District Hospital through project financing facility by the Ministry of Finance is underway this year to decongest urban health facilities and improve access.
- 16.3. A significant focus will be expanding ICU infrastructure at peripheral hospitals. Renovations will be completed at Gobabis, Mariental, and Rundu Hospitals. The pediatric ICU upgrade at Windhoek Central Hospital will significantly improve outcomes for critically ill children. Further investments involve establishing ICU units at Opuwo, Outapi, Engela, and Nankundu Hospitals, equipped with necessary specialized tools for critical care delivery. The development of a state-of-the-art Central Medical Stores will enhance procurement, storage, and distribution systems for medicines and supplies on a national scale. Additionally, the completion of a Children's Rehabilitation Centre at Etegameno will address the need for specialized pediatric and disability care.
- 16.4. To ensure sustainability, the Ministry will implement a comprehensive infrastructure maintenance plan, emphasizing regular upkeep, renovations, and upgrades. Upgrading some clinics into primary healthcare centers, deploying qualified health professionals, and expanding service scopes will decentralize healthcare delivery, making it more accessible to communities and reducing disparities. The expansion of mental health facilities across the country will address rising mental health needs, especially in the post-pandemic context.
- 16.5. **System Governance and Financing:** The N\$536.9 million support allocation will also bolster health system governance, policy development, and financing mechanisms. Continued efforts to improve accountability and transparency include monitoring health expenditure, strengthening civil service capacity, and fostering partnerships with development agencies, donors, and the private sector.



**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,  
Honourable Members,**

17. The proposed budget allocation for Vote 13 will go a long way to support the implementation of critical programmes and activities of the Ministry. We are grateful to our development co-operation partners, private sector and non-governmental organizations, for their support in different areas of critical needs in the sector. We will continue to ensure prudent utilization of resources placed at our disposal, as evidenced by unqualified Audit Report during the last three Financial Year, following many years of qualified audits.
  
18. For the sake of increased quality of outcomes in the health and social services sector, I request the Honourable Members, and this august House to support approval of the budget allocation for Vote 13: Ministry of Health and Social Services amounting to **Twelve Billion, Two Hundred, Sixty-Eighty Million, Three Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$12,268,372,000)** for the **2025/2026** Financial Year.

I thank you for your support.

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