

Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)

OVERVIEW OF SPANISH COOPERATION IN NAMIBIA, 1990-2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Cooperación
Española

Edition: July 2016

NIPO ONLINE:

502-16-120-5

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Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
Directorate for Cooperation with Africa and Asia

General catalogue of official publications of the General State
Administration

<https://publicacionesoficiales.boe.es>

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OVERVIEW OF SPANISH COOPERATION IN NAMIBIA, 1990-2014

Spanish Cooperation (SC) began its activities in Namibia in 1989, a few months before that country's independence. The first Basic Cooperation Agreement between Spain and Namibia was concluded in March 1995; within this reference framework, five Joint Commissions have been organized. The last of these was approved in October 2011 together with the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for 2011-2015.

The First and Second Master Plans for SC (for 2001-2004 and 2005-2008) considered Namibia a "priority country". This choice was based on its high rate of poverty and inequality, environmental vulnerability, the impact of AIDS, and the need to support Namibian institutions as part of the country's post-independence democratic consolidation process.

The Third Master Plan for SC (2009-2012) placed Namibia among the Group C countries (Partnership Country for consolidation of development achievements); during this period, **Namibia reached the status of middle-income country and SC organized its exit from the country.**

Namibia is considered an exit country in the Fourth Master Plan (2013-2016), in line with SC's geographic and sectoral concentration strategy and based on the new status of Namibia as a middle-high-income country.

SC has accompanied Namibia during its first 25 years as independent country, and has supported its rapid development process.¹

**SC HAS ACCOMPANIED NAMIBIA DURING ITS FIRST 25 YEARS AS INDEPENDENT
COUNTRY, AND HAS SUPPORTED ITS RAPID DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

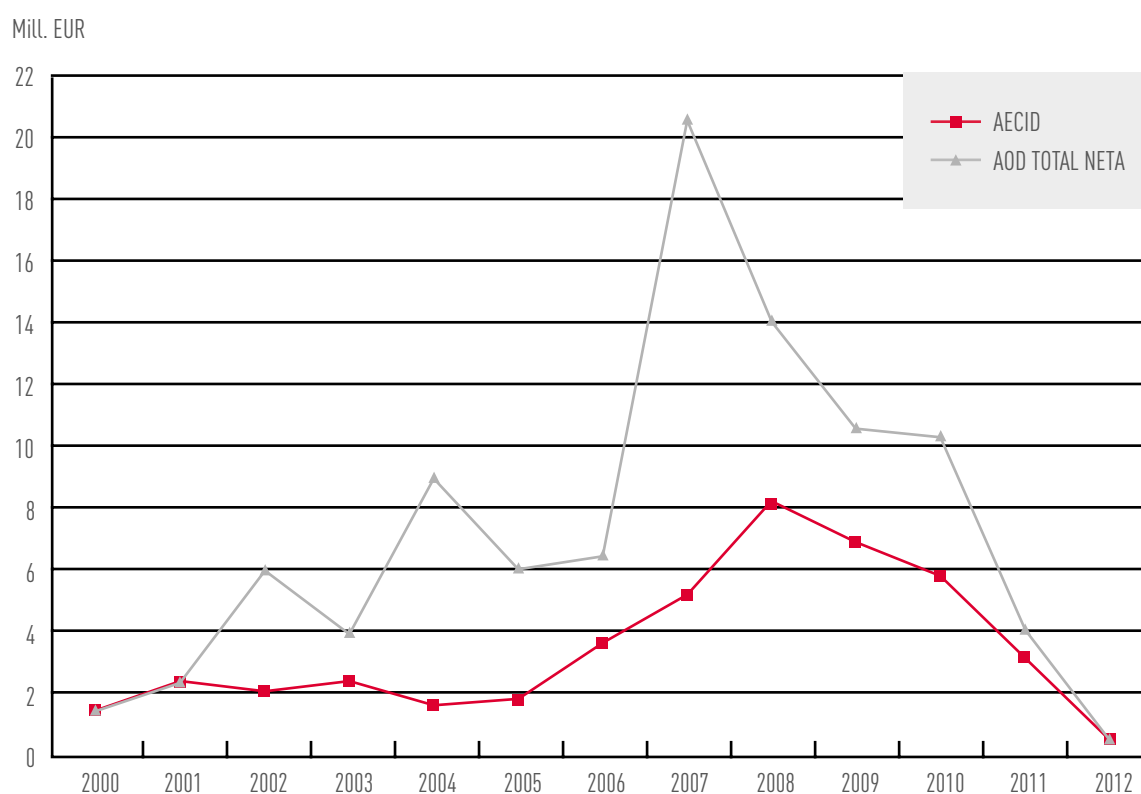
SC's strategy in Namibia, over those 25 years, has been the result of an effort of coordination and harmonization with national authorities and other donors present in the country to improve aid effectiveness. All actions were implemented following a thorough process of consensual planning and negotiation with the National Planning Commission (NPC), which is the body responsible for coordinating donors and managing Official Development Aid (ODA) in the country, together with the ministries involved. Actions agreed upon at the five Joint Commissions, country strategy documents and CPFs have been aligned with Namibian National Development Plans and implemented along with other donors, mainly European Union (EU) Member States, according to the needs and priority sectors identified by the partner country.

¹ HDI-Namibia: 0.569 (1990); 0.624 (2013).

Total Spanish ODA to Namibia has involved a wide range of instruments and different Spanish institutions. No definitive data are available for the decade **1990-1999**, although it can be estimated that contributions from the **Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)** of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MAEC)** during that period amounted to more than **€8.5 million**. **Total 2000-2012 net ODA** amounted to approximately **€96 million**, with the highest contributions occurring in 2004-2010.

**TOTAL 2000-2012 NET ODA AMOUNTED TO APPROXIMATELY €96 MILLION,
WITH THE HIGHEST CONTRIBUTIONS OCCURRING IN 2004-2010**

Gráfico 1: Spanish ODA to Namibia



Geographic and sectoral concentration was taken into account when defining the development strategy, seeking to identify intervention areas where SC could provide higher added value based on its experience. Identified interventions were aimed at fighting poverty and increasing human resource capacities. The fight against AIDS became a key line of intervention due to the impact of the epidemic, not only on the health sector but also on the education, social and economic sectors. **SC has contributed to reducing the prevalence of HIV in Namibia from 16.4% in 2005 to 14.3% in 2013.**

SC projects and programmes were mainly developed in the following **regions: Kunene, Omu-sati, Ohangwena and Caprivi** (northern regions where most of the population is concentrated), Erongo (coastal area where projects primarily focused on marine training and research),

Khomas (central region where the capital is located) and **Omaheke** (resettlement communities and habitability projects). Also noteworthy were nationwide programmes –not focused on any particular region or area– such as budget support.

Regarding **sectors**, rural development has been at the forefront of the strategy during this period, where 22% of Spain's funds were concentrated. The second most important sector in terms of volume of funds was fisheries (15%), closely followed by health (13%) and education (13%). Gender issues received 11% of total funds, while water and sanitation represented 9%, tourism and culture 8%, and other sectors (humanitarian aid, governance, and indigenous peoples) received 9%.

In sum, it is worth highlighting the following programmes carried out within SC priority sectors in Namibia.

- Rural Development Support Programmes

From the beginning, rural development has constituted a priority sector for SC. The Government of Namibia in general and the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement in particular made this a high-profile issue as part of the priority goal of combating poverty. A total of 35 actions were carried out, totalling an estimated **€15.2 million**.

Since the 1990s, SC has supported the **agrarian reform** process and the resettlement policy of the Namibian Government with different specialized technical assistance, bilateral and NGDO



Photo 1. Aquaculture centre in Omahenene

projects; the aim was to contribute to eliminating one of the potential hot spots of tension and inequality persisting in Namibia, based on inequality in land distribution and allocation.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN A PRIORITY SECTOR FOR SC, FOCUSING ESPECIALLY ON AGRARIAN REFORM

Agrarian reform projects have primarily focused on supporting the resettlement of disadvantaged ethnic groups, especially the San people, by improving their living conditions and enhancing habitability. Likewise, work has also gone into strengthening the Ministry of Lands for the creation of a specialized resettlement planning unit.

Parallel to agrarian reform interventions, SC has worked on rural development, mainly in Caprivi province through **Spanish NGDOs**, and by strengthening the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development with the Microfinance Programme for the economic development of entrepreneurs living in rural areas.

- Fisheries Support Programmes

Spain has traditionally been a key partner in this field. More than 30 interventions have been carried out, representing a total budget of approximately **€9.9 million**, of which **€3.8 million corresponded to projects and programmes supporting continental aquaculture**. In this subsector, noteworthy projects include those of the Galician foundation **CETMAR** (Technological Sea Centre) aimed at creating and strengthening aquaculture centres. Also noteworthy are activities for training specialists and the development of pilot projects focused on fish-farming research within the framework of the FAO programme for South-South technical assistance (Namibia-Vietnam).

The following interventions related to fisheries policy and administrative management are particularly relevant: **Programme for strengthening the Namibian Maritime and Fisheries Institute** for training in the areas of fisheries technology and responsible fishing; and support for the Research Programme of the National Marine Information Research Centre for decision-making in managing fishery resources.

Another significant SC line of intervention was aimed at improving Namibians' access to high-quality fish consumption by strengthening the Namibian Fish Consumption Trust. The impact of these projects has been positive, as the distribution and consumption of fish among rural populations has increased by more than 250%.

- Health Support Programmes

SC HAS CONTRIBUTED TO REDUCING THE PREVALENCE OF HIV IN NAMIBIA FROM 16.4% IN 2005 TO 14.3% IN 2013



Photo 2. Maternal Health Project in Kunene

Spain has financed 16 health-related projects, mainly focused on combating **HIV/AIDS** and promoting **reproductive health**. Total allocated funds amounted to **€9.2 million**.

Namibia has shown a strong commitment to these issues and has made significant progress in fighting AIDS, both in prevention and treatment. SC, together with other donors, has contributed to this.

SC has financed different projects aimed at improving the health and socio-economic conditions of populations affected by HIV, and it has contributed to reducing the overall HIV/AIDS prevalence rate for people between 15 and 49 to 13.3% in 2012, compared with 16.1% in 2000.

Particularly worth highlighting are interventions carried out through NGOs in the Erongo and Kunene regions, together with support at the national level provided to the WHO's 3 by 5 Initiative for monitoring and reducing antiretroviral drug resistance.

Maternal health has also been a pillar of **SC action in this sector**: between 2007 and 2011, it **contributed to reducing maternal deaths per 100,000 live births from 449 to 180**.

**BETWEEN 2007 AND 2011, MATERNAL DEATHS PER 100,000
LIVE BIRTHS DROPPED FROM 449 TO 180**

Spanish interventions in the area of maternal health have been particularly important in the Kunene region, where infant and maternal mortality rates are among the highest in the country. A bilateral comprehensive support project has been implemented to support the regional health system in providing pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum care.

- Education Support

SC has allocated €9 million to this sector. The most important contribution, in terms of its high level of funding (€7.5 million), harmonization and coordination, has been the **sector budget support** granted to the Ministry of Education between 2007 and 2011.

Coinciding with the Fifth Joint Commission, Spain agreed with the Government of Namibia, in coordination with other EU Member States, to exit the education sector given the high achievement rate regarding MDG 2, with an enrolment rate in primary education of 99.6% in the 2011/2012 school year.

- Gender Projects

Spain has positioned itself as one of the major donors in this sector, with a total contribution of more than **€7.6 million. SC has contributed to MDG 3 progress**, since girls' enrolment rate in school currently equals or exceeds boys' enrolment rate at all levels, and legal reforms have been enacted to address gender inequality and social injustices stemming from discriminatory cultural practices.

Particularly noteworthy is the Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Programme of the UNDP/Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, with a total budget of USD 8 million. This programme mainly focused on providing support to raise awareness on women's status and gender violence; to strengthen the Ministry of Gender and other providers of key services for women; and to mainstream the gender perspective in different Namibian policies.

Other SC-financed projects with less funding but with a major impact on MDG 3 include the UN-Women programme for good governance, gender equality and training women from a human-rights perspective in Namibia; and two projects within the framework of the NEPAD/Spanish Fund for African Women Empowerment.

- Water and Sanitation Programmes

This is a strategic sector, given the semi-arid conditions of Namibia.

SC has contributed funds to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation **with €6.4 million, mainly through sector budget support.**

In terms of water supply, results and impact have been highly positive, as water-supply coverage has expanded to **83% in 2011, compared with 65% in 1991.**

Regarding rural sanitation, there has been progress, although results have not been as satisfactory: coverage has expanded to only 25%, compared with 13% in 2008.

Another flagship SC project in this sector focused on basic habitability in peri-urban areas and suburbs with a high concentration of low-income people. In this regard, thanks to Spanish funding, housing was built and water and sanitation infrastructures were installed.

- Tourism Sector Support Programmes

Since 2006, SC, in line with Namibia's national strategy, has supported cultural and sustainable tourism programmes in rural areas, with a strong focus on the creation of income-generating activities for women and youth.

Noteworthy in this sector, and within the framework of the UNDP/Spain MDG Achievement Fund, is the **Programme on Culture and Development**, with a **USD6 million** budget. This programme was organized into three components:

1) Designation of cultural sites and objects, museum inventories, archive catalogues, copyright protection, revision and harmonization of heritage protection policies, a baseline study on cultural tourism, training cultural heritage managers, training of tourist guides, etc. Significant outputs included the launch of the National Heritage Council's website.

2) Legislative review, ratification of international conventions, awareness-raising among leaders and communities, and the implications of legislation for cultural heritage protection. Under this component, a Heritage Manual was drafted.

3) Support for 11 local tourist initiatives, including tourist routes, tourism information centres, community museums and support to handcraft groups for producing and marketing cultural products.

- Culture and Development Programmes

SC has worked very closely with the Ministry of Youth on actions aimed at enhancing institutional strengthening. In this regard, advisory services were provided to the Ministry's Arts Directorate and National Arts Council, in order to improve the Namibian cultural sector.

Furthermore, support was given to local institutions involved in arts promotion, such as the College of the Arts.

- Humanitarian Aid

Despite the low budget allocation (€1.1 million), Spain has responded to the major emergencies in the country during this period: floods in northern Namibia and responding to the food needs of Angolan refugees.

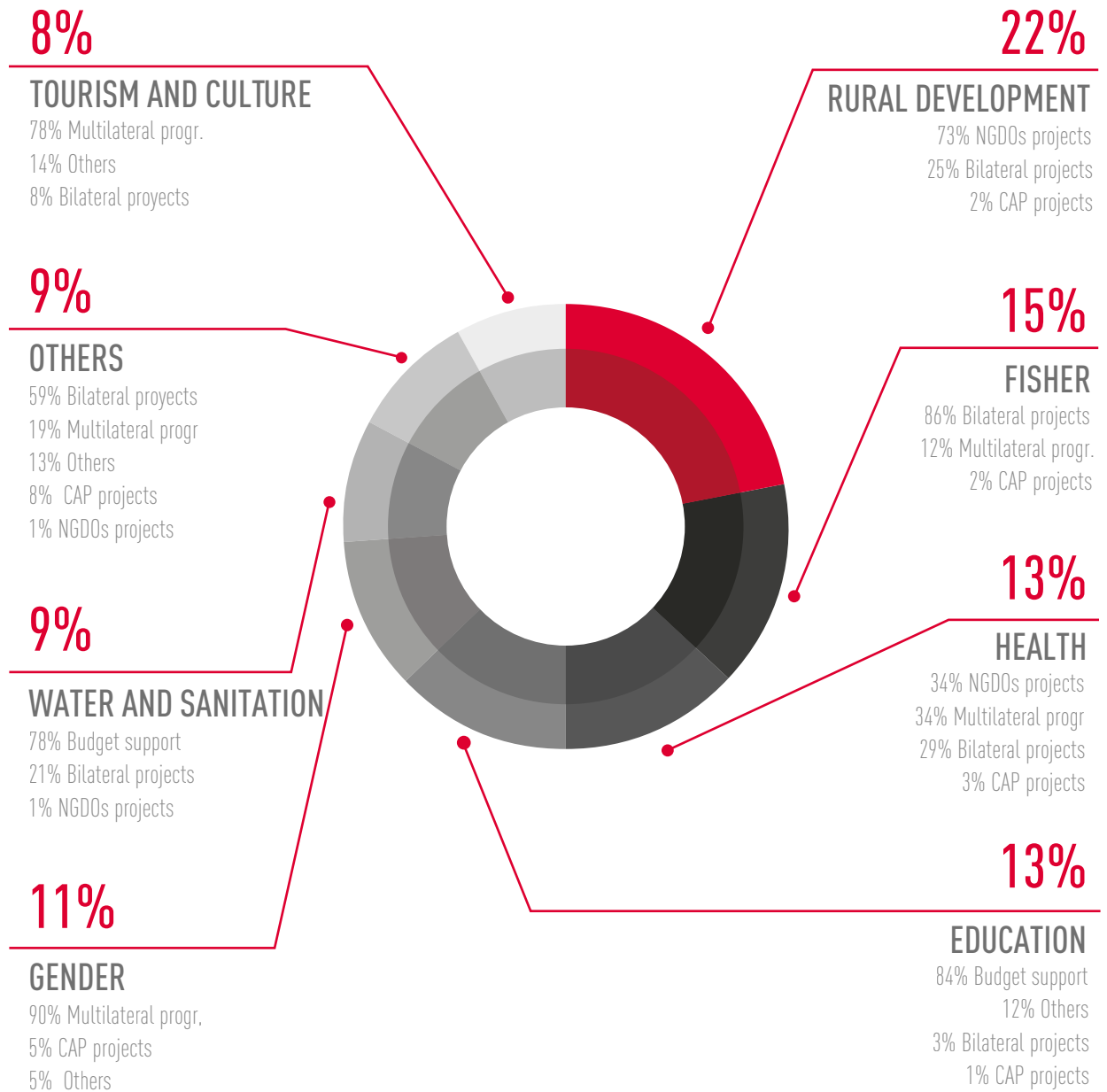
- Governance and Civil Society Support Programmes

Spain has been one of the few donors present in Namibia to **support indigenous people's rights**. A particularly noteworthy project was "Promoting and Implementing San Rights", carried out by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and financed by SC with €760,000.

In the field of governance, SC has partnered with the National Planning Commission (NPC), which is the body responsible for coordinating donors and managing ODA in Namibia. Within this partnership, SC acted not only as a donor, but also worked on capacity-building at the NPC through its Secretariat.

Regarding instruments, bilateral cooperation (which represents 30% of total channelled funds) has been the most common, articulated mainly through grants to Namibian public institutions for addressing the main strategic areas. Projects and agreements with Spanish NGDOs have also been important, together with aid granted via permanent open calls (known as CAP, in Spanish) to Namibian civil society organizations (24% of funds) and multilateral and regional programmes

(including global funds –Spanish contributions to MDGs– multilateral programmes with United Nations specialized agencies and the NEPAD/Spanish Fund), which have also represented 24% of channelled funds. The sector budget support instrument represented 18% of funds and was concentrated in the 2007-2011 period.



IN FULFILMENT OF THE PARIS AND BUSAN COMMITMENTS,
SPAIN PROVIDED 18% OF TOTAL FUNDS TO SECTOR BUDGET SUPPORT

CONCLUSIONS OF 25 YEARS OF SC IN NAMIBIA

SC has accompanied Namibia's development process for 25 years, over which the country's poverty rate has dropped from 70% in 1990 to 21% in 2011.

Over these years, SC has addressed development bottlenecks in Namibia, such as HIV/AIDS. MAEC/AECID has allocated more than €7 million to combating this epidemic, which resulted in a reduction in the adult prevalence rate from 22% in 2002 to 14.3% in 2013.

Another big challenge for Namibia's Government was the asymmetric land distribution system inherited from the colonial period, where 44% of arable land was owned by approximately 4000 white farmers. In this regard, SC has supported the agrarian reform process as well as the Namibian Government's resettlement policy with different specialized technical assistance to the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, bilateral and NGDO projects.

Although Namibia was classified as a middle-high income country in 2009, which resulted in many donors leaving, SC still included Namibia in its Third Master Plan (2009-2012) as a country for consolidating development achievements, in order to secure this development and reduce the risk of a setback.

The Fourth Master Plan marked the beginning of a responsible and organized exit process that concluded in July 2015 with the shutting down of SC's technical cooperation office. This opens a new era of cooperation between both countries: new paths to explore through dialogue in order to continue advancing the welfare of the Namibian population.

**WITH THE SHUTTING DOWN OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME
IN NAMIBIA, NEW PATHS OF DIALOGUE HAVE BEEN OPENED TO
CONTINUE ADVANCING THE WELFARE OF THE NAMIBIAN POPULATION**



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