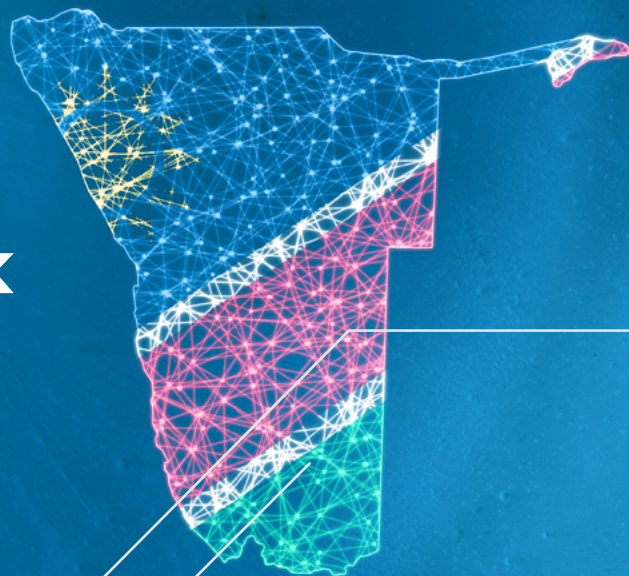


Country Disease Outlook

Namibia

August 2023



World Health
Organization

African Region

Background

The Republic of Namibia is a country in the southwest of Africa on the Atlantic Ocean. It's bordered by Angola, Botswana, South Africa and Zambia. It is an upper-middle income country with a GDP per capita of US\$ 4,866 (2021) and has a population of 2.5 million (2021).

Key points

- ◆ Namibia has a high burden of communicable and non-communicable disease (NCDs), with the latter making up 43% of deaths in 2021.
- ◆ Namibia had 195,715 people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021 and has made good progress towards achieving the 95-95-95 goals for HIV.
- ◆ Namibia's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically been fairly high, with above 90% coverage for the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine and the first dose of measles-containing vaccine in 2020 and 2021.
- ◆ While malaria remains a public health problem in Namibia, with an estimated 1.7 million cases in 2021, the country is off track to meet the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria targets.

UHC/CN

Universal Health Coverage/Communicable
and Non-communicable Diseases
WHO Regional Office for Africa





2019

43%

of deaths due to NCDs

Broad disease outlook

The country has a high burden of both communicable (such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS) and non-communicable disease (NCDs). The latter was estimated to have caused 43% of deaths in 2019.

Communicable diseases

Malaria

Malaria remains a public health problem in Namibia, with an estimated 13,740 cases in 2021, resulting in 15 deaths. There was a peak in malaria incidence in 2017 (47.5 per 1,000) which has subsequently fallen to 5.9 per 1,000 in 2021. The country is still on track to meet the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria targets, and is moving towards malaria elimination.

Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS

Incidence of tuberculosis for Namibia was 457 cases per 100,000 people in 2021. It ranks among the 30 high TB burden countries worldwide. The mortality rate of TB cases (all forms, excluding HIV coinfection) has reduced since 2015, from 65 to 59 per 100,000 population in 2021, and the TB mortality rate among HIV-positive people has fallen from 81 to 51 in the same period.

The 95-95-95 goals are close to being achieved:

- ▲ 92% of people living with HIV that know their status.
- ▲ 98% of people living with HIV who know their status are on treatment.
- ▲ 93% of people living with HIV and on treatment who are virally suppressed.

Approximately 195,715 people were receiving antiretroviral treatment in 2021.

Neglected tropical diseases

Namibia is endemic for two of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA), namely soil-transmitted helminthiasis and schistosomiasis. In 2021, no MDA took place.

Other notable NTDs that remain endemic are leishmaniasis (cutaneous), taeniasis and cysticercosis, leprosy and rabies.

Non-communicable diseases

NCDs are a significant health problem in Namibia. The age-standardised mortality rate across four major NCDs (Cardiovascular Disease, Chronic Respiratory Disease, Cancer and Diabetes) was 909 per 100,000 in males and 581 in females in 2021.

Namibia has implemented initial efforts on the NCD progress indicators related to NCD policy and plan, tobacco control and alcohol availability, however progress has been more limited on NCD guidelines, alcohol advertising restrictions, trans fats policies, salt policies, marketing to children and physical activity guidelines.

Childhood Immunization

Namibia's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically been fairly high. After a small dip in 2019, the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine peaked at 93% 2020 and 2021. Similarly, the measles vaccination coverage for the first dose was 90% in 2020-21. Namibia has experienced small outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, with particularly large outbreaks of measles and rubella in 2015.

In 2021, there were an estimated 4,746 under-immunised children and 2,034 zero-dose children in 2021. While the absolute numbers are low, Namibia should consider the implementation of appropriate catch-up vaccination strategies to protect these populations from vaccine-preventable diseases and reduce the probability of outbreaks in the future.

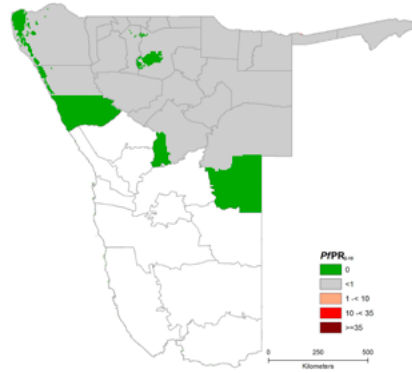
Child survival

Based on the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) estimates, the under-5 mortality rate has fallen from 46 to 39 per 1000 live births between 2015 and 2021, remaining above the SDG target of 25 per 1,000 live births. Similarly, neonatal mortality also fell from 22 to 20 per 1,000 live births in the same period, above the SDG target of 12.

MALARIA

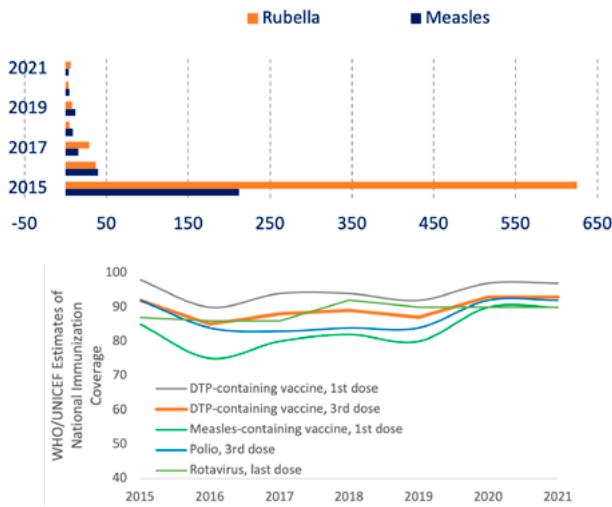
POPULATION AT RISK IN 2021	TOTAL MALARIA CASES IN 2021	TOTAL MALARIA DEATHS IN 2021
2.5 million	1.7 million	3,258

ITN use in children under five years 55.6% and 18.9% use of ACTs among those with fever for whom care was sought and received a finger or heel prick

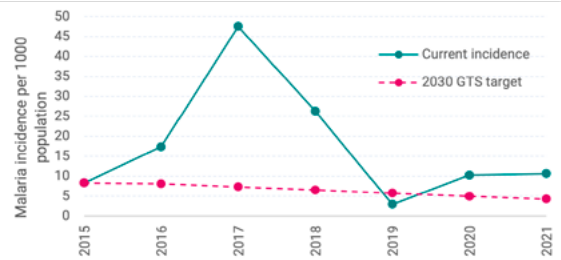


Plasmodium falciparum malaria prevalence in children in Namibia in 2020. Estimates from the Malaria Atlas project

EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDREN



Namibia is part of E8 countries. However, malaria incidence since 2015 compared to GTS targets shows that the country is not on track to achieve targets for disease reductions.



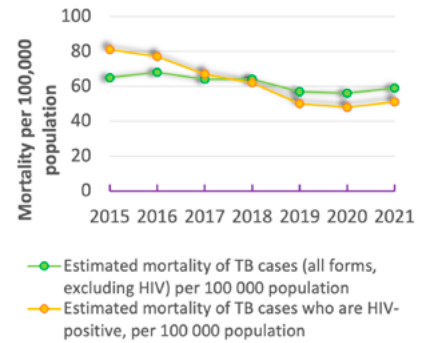
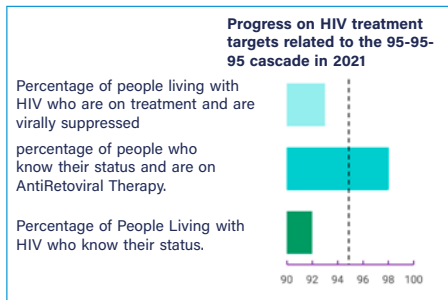
Zero dose children 2,034 **Under-immunized 4,746**

WUENIC estimates show that vaccination coverage has remained relatively high since 2020 after slight dip in 20a9. The last outbreaks of measles and rubella were in 2015.

HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS

- 195,715** people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021
- 71%** Treatment success rate for HIV-positive TB cases
- 87%** of children (aged < 5 years) household contacts of bacteriologically-confirmed TB cases on preventive treatment

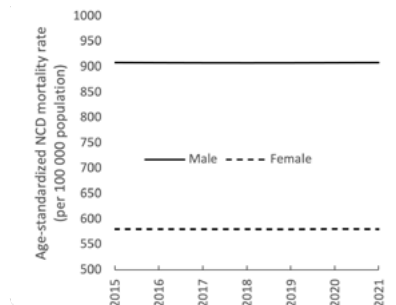
8.4% Domestic funding for TB
23% Domestic funding for HIV



- Indicator 1 - Targets
- Indicator 2 - CRV Mortality
- Indicator 3 - Surveys
- Indicator 4 - NCD policy and Plan
- Indicator 5A - Tobacco taxes
- Indicator 5B - Tobacco smoke free/polution
- Indicator 5C - Tobacco health warning
- Indicator 5D - Tobacco advertising ban
- Indicator 5E - Tobacco media campaign
- Indicator 6A - Alcohol availability
- Indicator 6B - Alcohol advertising restrictions
- Indicator 6C - Alcohol taxes
- Indicator 7A - Salt policies
- Indicator 7B - Trans fats policies
- Indicator 7C - Marketing to children
- Indicator 8 - Physical activity awareness
- Indicator 9 - NCD guidelines

NCD PROGRESS INDICATORS

- **Achieved**
- **Partially achieved**
- **Not achieved/Unknown**



NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

Endemic NTDS requiring Preventive Chemotherapy (PC)

- Lymphatic filariasis (non-endemic)
- Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
- Schistosomiasis
- Trachoma (non-endemic)
- Onchocerciasis (non-endemic)

PC-NTDs treatment in 2021

0 Million targeted for MDA
0 Million treated with MDA

OTHER MAJOR NTDS

- Leishmaniasis (Cutaneous)
- Taeniasis and cysticercosis
- Leprosy
- Rabies

