

End of Project
Summary Report

**Mitigating
the impact of
COVID-19
on Reproductive,
Maternal, Newborn
and Child Health
Services**



Republic of Namibia



World Health
Organization

NAMIBIA



Contents

1. Background	2
2. Regions	6
3. Project	8
4. Programme activities	10
Output 1: Strengthened capacity of health workers	10
Output 2: Primary health care facilities equipped	14
Output 3: Increased uptake of integrated interventions	16
Output 4: Increased demand for RMNCHservices	20





Background

Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCH) are amongst the essential health services disrupted in Namibia because of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the health system is being challenged by an increasing demand for care of COVID-19 patients, it is critical to maintain preventive and curative services.

Data from the Health Information System (HMIS) of the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) indicates that there was a decline in patient attendance at outpatient clinics across health facilities in the country from April to July 2020, compared to the same period in 2019. There was a decline of 13% and 36% in the utilization of family planning services and sick child visits respectively.





Whereas the data captured is for the period until July 2020, observations and reports from health facilities have shown the decline persists to date. There has also been an increase in stillbirths reported, most likely due to a decline in quality of care.



The Expanded Programme on Immunization observed a distressing picture of declining measles rubella immunization coverage in 74% of the districts in the country between January and June 2020. Low immunization coverage creates low herd immunity and increases the susceptible population under 5 years which can lead to vaccine preventable disease outbreaks, specifically measles.

An increase in newborn deaths was also noted from data analysis carried out using HMIS data comparing 2019 and 2020 during the same period. This highlights the importance of increasing capacities both at health facility-level and community-level by strengthening the skills of healthcare workers and availability of essential equipment and supplies.





Regions

Immunization

Namibia recorded high immunization coverage in 2021.



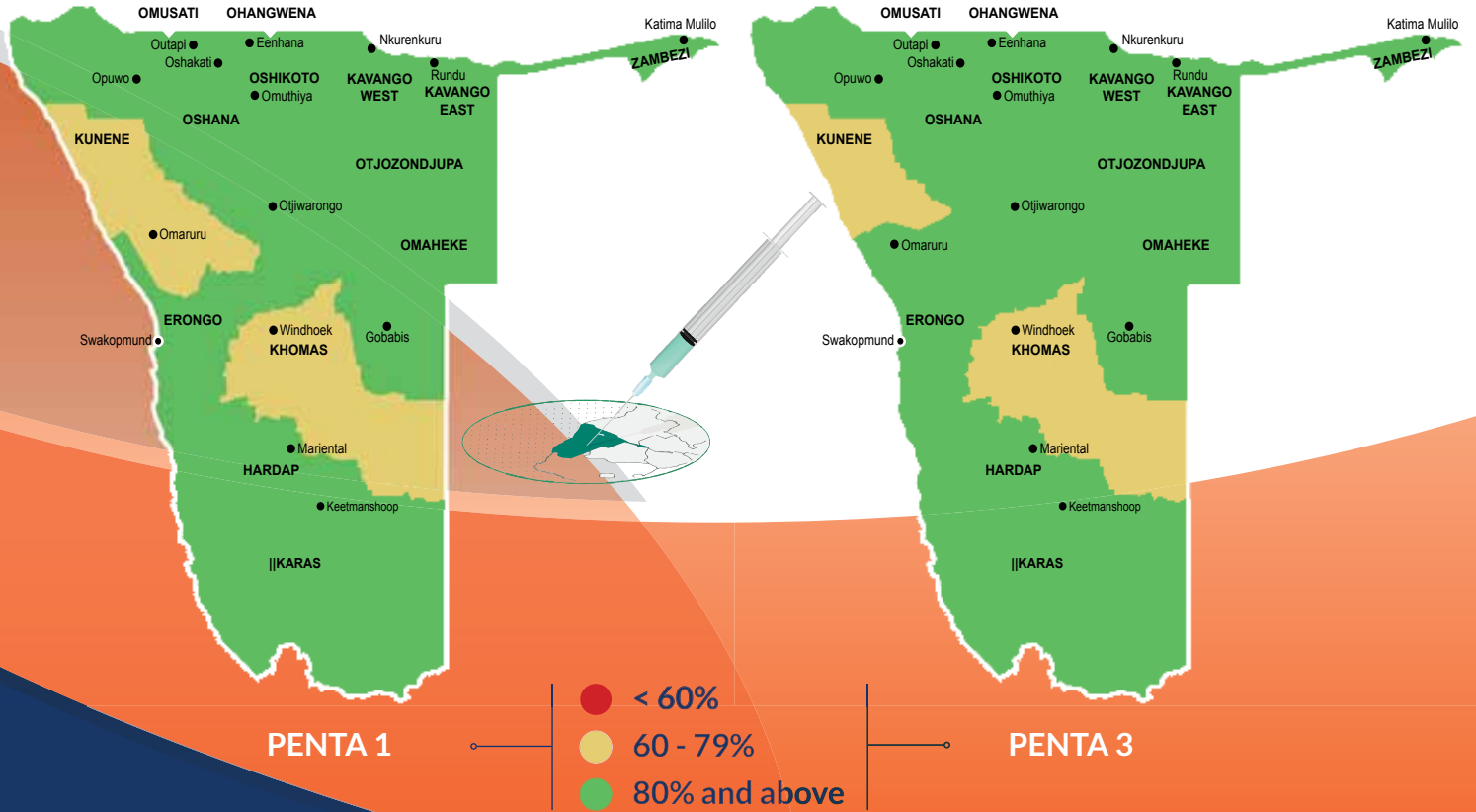
30 out of **35** health districts achieved **80%** and above for Penta 1 coverage and **31** out of **35** for Penta 3 coverage.

Penta vaccine is a 5-in-1 injection which protects children against:

- Diphtheria,
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough),
- Tetanus,
- Hepatitis B, and
- Haemophilus influenza.



Immunization coverage per region in 2021



Project

The project received funding of USD 270.000.00 from the Government of Japan

OVERALL OBJECTIVE:

to strengthen and increase the uptake of RMNCH services to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specific Objectives:

- 1** To strengthen the capacity of health workers to provide quality reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health services in the context of COVID-19.
- 2** To equip primary health care facilities to improve the maternal services provided.
- 3** To increase demand for RMNCH services through health promotion and education interventions.
- 4** To increase the uptake of integrated interventions such as immunization, micronutrient supplementation for pregnant women and children, deworming for children and maternity care services.



Output

1

**Strengthened capacity of
health workers
to provide quality
reproductive, maternal,
newborn and child health
services.**



New Antenatal Care (ANC) guidelines were officially launched and implemented country wide in October 2021. ANC training package was adapted and validated.

Intrapartum care guidelines were updated to meet the WHO intrapartum care recommendation for a positive childbirth experience.



Output

1

128

health workers (doctors, nurses and midwives) from 14 regions/ 35 districts have been trained to implement the new ANC guidelines.

44

health workers have been trained on ANC as trainers.





10

health facilities
in 2 regions and 5 districts
received mentoring
and on the job training.

Output

2

Primary health care facilities equipped to provide quality maternal services.

16

portable ultrasound machines were procured and distributed to 16 high volume and hard to reach health facilities across all 14 regions.





Output

3

Increased uptake of integrated interventions: immunization, micronutrient supplementation for pregnant women and children, deworming for children and maternity care services.

4

regions reached with Maternal and Child Health days (MCHDs) between November and December 2021.





This strategy aims to reach un- and under immunized children and includes:

- Vitamin A supplementation,
- screening of children from 6 to 59 months of age for malnutrition using MUAC (Mid-Upper Arm Circumference),
- distribution of Ready-To-Use-Food (RTUF) for moderate and severely malnourished children,
- distribution of Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS),
- de-worming for children aged 12 to 59 months with albendazole, and
- administering Tetanus Toxoid (TT) to pregnant women and Women of Child Bearing Age (WCBA).

Output

3

25,000

children reached with the different interventions:

7900

children below 5 years were vaccinated against measles/rubella.

7000

children immunized with Oral Polio vaccine.





6500

children received
pentavalent vaccine.

23,800

women of childbearing age were
vaccinated with Tetanus and Adult
Diphtheria (TTD) vaccine.

Output

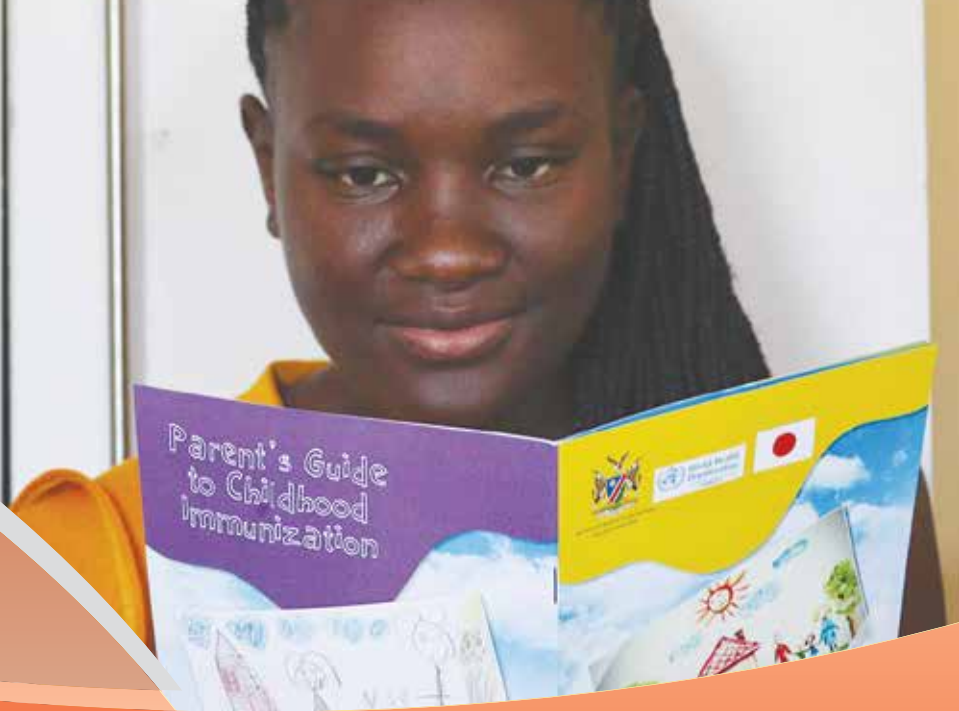
4

**Increased demand
for reproductive, maternal,
newborn and child health
(RMNCH) services
through awareness creation.**

20

episodes of 'Vaccination for Good Health' radio programme reviewed and broadcast in 7 languages on NBC radio stations over a period of 3 months in Afrikaans, English, Otjiherero, Oshiwambo, Rukwangali, Silozi, and Nama/Damara.





25,000

copies of 'Parent's Guide to Childhood Immunization' reviewed and printed in 5 languages: English, Afrikaans, Otjiherero, Silozi and Oshiwambo.

8600

posters for ANC guidelines developed, printed and distributed to all 35 districts.



Republic of Namibia

