LEPIDICO

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BASELINE STUDY

of Karibib, Namdeb, Usakos and Otjimbingwe

Communities in Erongo Region,

Namibia

Final Report

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Prepared by

GiG Agri-Advice & Supplies

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Lepidico Chemicals Namibia (Pty) Ltd – for creating the opportunity and availing resources to enable GiG Agri-Advice & Supplies to conduct the study, and as part of the review process, to provide technical guidance to align the report to corporate reporting standards of the Company;

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Enumerators – for executing task meticulously and in the shortest possible time while ensuring quality data and summary information as sourced from respondents.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
CBO	Community-Based Organization
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease of 2019
DR	Dependency Ratio
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Information Communication Technologies
IFC	International Finance Corporation
km	Kilometer
LA/s	Local Authority/ies
Lepidico	Lepidico Chemicals Namibia Pty Ltd
Ltd	Limited
NAD	Namibian Dollar
NIDS	Namibia Inter-censal Demographic Survey
NSA	Namibia Statistics Agency
Pty	Proprietary
SEBS	Socio-Economic Baseline Survey
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
TA	Traditional Authority
TB	Tuberculosis
UFY	Unemployed Female Youth
UMY	Unemployed Male Youth
VET	Vocational Education and Training

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lepidico Chemicals Namibia (Pty) Ltd has an active license and mining interests for lithium and related rare earth metals on Farm Okongava, which lies approximately 25 km west of Karibib, Erongo region. The main surrounding villages, settlements, and towns – which constituted the 'cluster of communities of interest' – comprised of Karibib, Namdeb, Otjimbingwe and Usakos. Noting that initiation of major projects in any given society requires tactical consultation and planning, and in line with standard principles of stakeholder engagement and on account of the paucity of reliable socio-economic data on the local communities of interest; Lepidico conducted a Socio-Economic Baseline Study (SEBS) from 13th to 23rd March 2020, with special focus on Karibib, Namdeb, Otjimbingwe and Usakos communities.

To fully attain the objective of the study and ensure quality responses from targeted respondents, a two-pronged approach comprising of targeted stakeholder (institution level) consultations and a household survey was adopted. As such, various tools were used for gathering required information/data – with household data collected through primary sources aided by interviews guided by a structured questionnaire. Additional information was collected from secondary data sources through limited, but strategic in-person discussions with key informants and literature review. Below are the key findings of the SEBS:

Household socio-demographic characteristic

- The study revealed a diverse socio-economic profile of inhabitants in the study area while portraying similarities in social setups and lifestyle characteristics.

- In terms of gender of head of household, the study indicated that across target communities 55% and 44.7% of households interviewed were headed by males and females, respectively.

- Households in Usakos (43%) and Otjimbingwe (40.6%) were headed by relatively older people (>56 years of age) whereas the majority of heads of households in Karibib (42%) and Namdeb (30%) were in the age group of 31–40 years.

- In line with the observation that majority (59.4%) of residents in the study area were relatively younger people in the age groups of 18–35 years (accounting for 26.1%) and 36–60 years (33.2%), it turned out that majority of the households (57.9%) were headed by unmarried (single) persons.

- Across target communities, the average size of the household was 5.15, and ranged between 3.6 and 6.3 persons – being slightly higher than the national average. Otjimbingwe had larger household sizes, the largest being 26 members in one household.

- In terms of household composition, Usakos and Otjimbingwe had relatively more female than male adults, accounting for 19.6% vs. 17.1% and 15.3% vs. 12.7%, respectively. In contrast, Karibib and Namdeb had more male than female adults in the ratio of 19.6% vs. 17.2% and 19.6% vs. 11.8%, respectively.

- The same trend was noticed for male and female youths across the study areas, with the exception of Karibib where male youths accounted for 10.7% and female youths 15.7%.

- Children accounted for 30.7% (Usakos) to 38.1% (Otjimbingwe), whereas pensioners accounted for 1.3% (Namdeb) to 9.2% (Otjimbingwe) of households.

- Notably, overall the larger segment of persons in households consisted of able bodied persons (59.4%) than children (35.5%) – indicating availability of the critical mass that could be relied upon as labour for various household or community development activities and/or to be tapped into by potential employers, subject to skill-to-job matching.

- The study revealed that out of a total of 767 children, 89 (11.6%) were orphans. Within the study area, Usakos (with 20.5% of children in the household being orphans) had the highest orphans, followed by Namdeb (10.3%), Otjimbingwe (10.2%) and Karibib (4.8%).

- As for disability, the study showed that 3% (65 persons) of the sampled population (n = 2,188) had some form of disability. This figure is slightly lower than the national average of 4.7%.

- In terms of education level of heads of households, one quarter of household heads in Otjimbingwe did not attend any formal education, followed by Usakos (21%), Namdeb (16%) and Karibib (2%). On the same trend, a further 24.4%, 19.5%, 18% and 9.3% of household heads in Otjimbingwe, Usakos, Namdeb and Karibib respectively, ended their academic careers at primary school level.

- Attendance of secondary/high school by unemployed youth in target communities shows statistics that are higher than the national average. For example, on average 40.8% and 46.1% of unemployed female youth (UFY) and unemployed male youth (UMY) respectively, reached Grade 10. A further 34.8% and 34% of UFY and UMY respectively, reached Grade 12.

- In light of education levels as well as the diverse skills and experiences possessed by members of the target community, the study revealed that the target communities would have an abundance of low-skilled and unskilled labour – some of whom can be trained through e.g. on-the-job training, short-courses, and adult learning to assume various roles in different sectors and industries.

- Of particular relevance to Lepidico is the proportion of residents (Karibib – 28%; Namdeb – 18%; and Usakos – 17%) who indicated possession of key experience in mining and/or related fields.

- For convenience and ease of access, over 90% of pre-primary and primary school learners attended schools in their respective towns/places. However, for Namdeb most pre-primary (61.5%) and primary school (92.3%) learners attended pre-primary and primary schools in Karibib because education institutions are non-existent at that settlement.

- As regards to Junior and Senior Secondary (High) School, a similar trend in which town-based (local) schools were generally preferred over schools in other places was observed.

- Of the children (all being in the school-going age) segment within households, 96.8% were enrolled in formal education system, being in concurrence with national average for that age group.

- On average 14%, 34.4%, 21.2%, 24.8% and 2.4% were in pre-primary, primary, junior secondary and senior secondary (high) schools respectively, mainly across the study area.

- The study revealed that income sources were diverse, with a strong bias on social grants which sustained 27.8% of the households.

- Further, study noted that a relatively high number of heads of household in Namdeb (72%), Karibib (38%) and Otjimbingwe (18.9%) had no income. Similarly, majority of other household members did not have incomes – Namdeb (86%), Otjimbingwe (63.9%), Karibib (63.3%) and Usakos (46%).

- The only notable exception was 15% of households who had own businesses for additional income in Usakos; 15% in Otjimbingwe who had members employed as civil servants; and 14.7% who had own businesses in Karibib.

- Social grants was relied upon as the main income source by 52.8%, 41% and 15.3% of households in Otjimbingwe, Usakos and Karibib, respectively. Interestingly, despite having no reliable income, households in Namdeb also do not draw much from social grants, with only 2% drawing benefits from this grant mechanism of the state.

- Formal employment accounted for incomes of only 10.7%, 6.5%, 4% and 0.6% of household heads in Karibib, Usakos, Namdeb and Otjimbingwe, respectively.

- Reliable farming income was recorded by only 8.3%, 2.5% and 2% of households in Otjimbingwe, Usakos and Namdeb, respectively.

- Nearly half (48.3%) of the sampled households had a combined monthly income in the range of NAD 0 to 999. This was followed by the income bracket of NAD 1,000 to 2,999 which represented the average of income of 34% of households.

- Notably, nearly all income-earners (84%) residing at Namdeb are in the lowest income category. On the same trend, 93.9% of income-earners in Otjimbingwe were in the bottom two income categories.

- These observations, coupled with other findings pertaining to the socio-economic situation of residents, clearly confirm Namdeb and Otjimbingwe (and Usakos, to some extent) as multiple deprivation hotspots requiring massive investments and programs in the social development space to effectively address the plight of those in need.

Service provision and community needs

- Majority households and key informants are unsatisfied with municipal services due to a magnitude of reasons. At present, the town/village councils in the target communities do not have the financial resources or the professional and administrative capabilities to fulfil their mandate as perceived by communities.

- Based on survey findings, 52.5%, 40%, 12% and 36.7% of households in Usakos, Karibib, Namdeb and Otjimbingwe respectively, had access to formal credit facilities and/or financial services (mainly reputable commercial banks, Nampost and a few micro-lenders).

- Despite the importance of roads, it was evident that the maintenance of roads within the towns of Usakos and Karibib as well as the gravel road between Karibib and Otjimbingwe was sub-standard as per respondent's assertions.

- About 28.1% of households across the study area owned transport assets.

- In line with the aspirations of the government – which is to ensure that all Namibians have access to basic services especially water – none of the households confirmed total deprivation from water services.

- In Usakos, the main water source was piped water connected to dwellings (74.5%) and centralized public taps (24.5%). In Karibib, majority (76%) of residents obtained water from public taps and only 22.7% had piped water (22.7%). Namdeb households largely depended on water provided through water tankers (58%) and natural open water sources e.g. ponds and rivers (28%). In Otjimbingwe, 82.8% obtained water from a public tap, and only 11.1% had water piped into their dwellings.

- As regards to sanitation, and as judged from the broadest sense of the word, LAs in Karibib and Usakos as well as the settlement administration in

Otjimbingwe try their level best to ensure adequate public health conditions, including clean drinking water and acceptable treatment and disposal of human excreta and sewage. However, the LAs have been facing financial challenges which cripple effective service delivery – a key concern being ablution facilities.

- Considering that a significantly high number of households (Namdeb – 96%; Karibib – 72% and Otjimbingwe – 64.4%) did not have access/own ablution facilities and the fact that most households in the target communities resorted to 'bush/veld toilet' when nature calls, there is a looming danger which may see a repeat of outbreaks (e.g. Hepatitis E) such as those experienced in Windhoek and a few other towns in the recent years.

- As part of taking early action including associated preventative measures, the above calls for collection action and expedited investments in servicing new townships and settlements while managing rural-urban migration issues – the root cause of the mushrooming of these settlements or "shanty towns".

- A lot need to be done in the health domain, with staffing, ambulance, mortuary, pharmacies, availability of drugs/vaccines, general health care service (which was reported as poor by some respondents as poor) being among the list of key issues requiring urgent attention.

- Overall, the main issues that were raised regarding LAs, and on which Lepidico could capitalize included, but not limited to:

i. economic aspects (unemployment, poverty);
ii. insufficient or lack of basic infrastructure (potable water, agro-marketing, irrigation, roads, ablution and sewage, electricity);
iii. amenities (sports and playgrounds, public green areas);
iv. law and order (police station, vehicles);
v. education (teachers, classrooms, equipment, transportation); and
vi. health (staffing, ambulance, mortuary, pharmacies).

Prioritized needs of target communities

Target communities had very diverse opinions on development priorities – most of which discern from the perspective of service delivery and general destitution. Below are the top 3 broad categories of prioritized needs:

i. Mega projects/investments with high employment creation potential – to be aligned to the relatively abundant and diverse local labour;
ii. Well-equipped vocational centres for tailor-made trainings/skills enhancement, targeting unemployed youth, women or any interested community member(s); and
iii. Diversification and value addition initiatives for food security enhancement and poverty alleviation, targeting vulnerable groups and farmers.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview of the study area

The study engaged residents and selected institutions of note in western Namibia, specifically the Karibib-Usakos-Otjimbingwe block, including Namdeb (just outside Karibib) and Uiba-Oas (on the outskirts of Usakos) informal settlements – the latter of which are known as the main dwelling places for, and marketing avenue (in the case of Uiba-Oas) for semi-precious stones traded by small miners in that part of Erongo region. Considering its rich mineral deposits, this area remains home to various small-scale and commercial mining activities for semi-precious (gem) stones, aragonite marble, gold, lithium and other rare earth metals.

Prior to the advent of commercial mining, and dating back to time immemorial, the area has been and continue to be dominated by mixed small (mainly sheep and goat) and large stock (mainly cattle) farming. Even though farming remains central to the livelihoods of the majority of rural inhabitants, the area's inherent aridity and rainfall variability – with a mean annual precipitation estimated at 200–250 mm (Atlas of Namibia Project[2], 2002); high ambient temperature for the largest part of any given year; the poor [rocky and unworkable] soils; low grazing/carrying capacity; water supply challenges in some areas, and off-late recurrent droughts, continue to be a threat to agricultural enterprises and the associated livelihood systems.

Being generally scenic in most parts i.e. having picturesque mountains, ravines and various tributaries feeding the famous Khan river; the area has some potential for various tourism enterprises. However, the limited biological diversity (both flora and fauna), and most notably, limited wildlife species (a key attraction to most tourists) in general could be factors limiting natural resources-based tourism ventures.

1.2 Background to this Study

Lepidico Chemicals Namibia (Pty) Ltd has an active license and mining interests for lithium and related rare earth metals on Farm Okongava, which lies approximately 25 km west of Karibib, Erongo region. The main surrounding villages, settlements, and towns – which constitute the 'cluster of communities of interest' – would comprise of Karibib, Namdeb, Otjimbingwe and Usakos in that these places are located within a 50 km radius from Farm Okongava.

The initiation of major development projects in any given society requires tactical consultation and planning. As such, and in line with standard principles of stakeholder engagement and on account of the paucity of reliable socio-economic

[2] Atlas of Namibia Project (2002). Directorate of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

data on the local communities of interest, Lepidico conducted a Socio-Economic Baseline Study from 13th to 23rd March 2020, with special focus on Karibib, Namdeb, Otjimbingwe and Usakos communities. It is our conviction that the findings of the study would be key in guiding effective partnerships with, and/or investment priorities targeting local communities while aiding in understanding the current situation in considerable detail.

1.3 Objective and Scope of the Baseline Study

The study was aimed at generating documentary evidence of the socio-economic situation and local area demographics of the inhabitants of Karibib, Namdeb, Otjimbingwe and Usakos; the various factors (including their inter-linkages) affecting the wellbeing of inhabitants as well as possible key intervention areas in which Lepidico may participate, both at micro, meso and macro levels.

Similarly, the study was purposefully designed to establish a set of reference points and indicators that will allow Lepidico to prioritize need-based sustainable development initiatives in the aforementioned focal areas, by means of an integrated focus that considers the interconnected aspects of the economic, social, geo-political, environmental and institutional elements of the area. The baseline study aimed to collect data at two levels:

i. Households (primary data).
ii. Selected institutions in public service and private sector domains (primary and/or secondary data).

The study investigated the current trends with regards to household's demographic characteristics, community livelihoods and development opportunities, asset and wealth of households, social service provision, and other benchmarks of relevance to Lepidico community engagement and development in the target communities.

1.4 Structure of the Report

Following this introductory section, section 2 of the baseline report describes the study approach and methodology; section 3 and 4 provides key study outcomes whereas section 5 covers the main conclusion and recommendations. Lastly, all additional information is presented in the Annexes.

2. STUDY APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

To fully attain the objective of the study and ensure quality responses from targeted respondents, a two-pronged approach comprising of targeted stakeholder (institution level) consultations and a household survey was adopted. As such, various tools were used for gathering required information/data – with household data collected through primary sources aided by interviews guided by a structured questionnaire (Annex A). Additional information was collected from secondary data sources through limited, but strategic in-person discussions with key informants and literature review.

2.1 Inception Phase for the Baseline Survey

Inception phase entailed preparatory and early consultation actions, including meeting Lepidico's Country Manager – who also acted as the interlocutor for this exercise as well as representatives of local and traditional authorities, selected government officials, and interest groups (youth activist and women groups) within the target communities. The aim of this phase was to:

i. Facilitate clarification of the terms of references for the task;
ii. Obtain insights into the planned operations of Lepidico Chemicals in the study area;
iii. Clarify operational approach and logistical requirements pertaining to the exercise; and
iv. Where appropriate, these consultative platforms were also used as avenues to further guide implementation at local level while collating valuable data and/or information on the socio-economic situation of target groups.

2.2 Preparation of Data Collection Tools

This phase involved preparation of the data collection tools, sampling framework, recruitment of enumerators and collecting secondary information from relevant documents. Essentially, this phase refined study design including the sampling frame and data collection tools. In total, 600 questionnaires were administered and 8 strategic stakeholder consultations held with key informants (see Annex B).

2.3 Sampling Methodology

A triple-pronged sampling methodology was adopted in this study to draw the final primary sampling unit – the target household. The first stage was pre-determined by the Client, and was informed by the realistic assumption that the bulk of affected and interested parties (based on impact zonation) at the local level may emanate from within a 50 km radius from Farm Okongava (where Lepidico's future mining activities will be taking place). Similarly, and from the perspective of "communities of interest"

when it comes to stakeholder engagement as guided by the International Finance Corporation[3] principles, the Client was of the view that confining the study to towns, settlements and/or villages within that zone would suffice. Based on this descriptor, Karibib, Namdeb, Otjimbingwe and Usakos block defined the broad study area.

The second stage entailed drawing up the number of target households within the study area as summarized in Table 1[4] below.

Table 1: Sampling framework for the household survey

Place	Population (as estimated from 2011 census)	Sampling size (10% of population)	Sampling size (5% of population)	Actual households interviewed[5]
Karibib	3,800	380	190	150[a]
Namdeb	800	80	40	50
Otjimbingwe	3,600	360	180	180
Usakos	3,000	300	150	200[b]
TOTAL	**15,200**	**1,120**	**560**	**580**

Notes:

[a] In Karibib some households in the "affluent" suburbs/locations were either locked or household members were reluctant to participate in this survey, hence the relatively lower response vs. target.

[b] Upon advice from key informants and management of the Usakos Town Council, the number of targeted households was adjusted upward to include peri-urban communities/settlements.

The third stage involved a selection of households within each target community – best categorized as suburbs/locations/areas from a practical perspective and ease of distinction within each target place. A random targeting approach for households to be interviewed was adopted while ensuring realistic representation within each target suburb/location.

2.4 Training of Enumerators and Pre-testing

Following endorsement of the survey tool (questionnaire) by Lepidico, the survey tool was shared with pre-identified and experienced enumerators for their acquaintance, and by way of a refresher training session held on March 13th, 2020 in Karibib. Immediately thereafter, pre-testing was done in Karibib, Usakos and Otjimbingwe on March 14th, 2020. At the end of the pre-testing, enumerators and support staff met on March 16th 2020, to share experiences, contribute to refining the survey tool (Annex A) and to agree on a common approach to conduct the exercise in the respective focal places.

From the pre-testing exercise, it was noted that respondents were not comfortable having particularly their names or physical addresses written down on the response form in that in so doing most felt that any information collected during the process

[3] International Finance Corporation (2007). Stakeholder engagement - A Good Practice Handbook for companies doing business in emerging markets. 201p.

[4] Adapted from the Terms of Reference for the study.

[5] As guided by key informants at the local level.

e.g. education levels, monthly earnings, cause of death or health-related responses for that specific household will easily be decoded and ultimately expose the privacy of the individuals residing in that household. On that note, to ensure confidentiality of data/information collected enumerators did not prioritize recording of names and/or physical addresses of respondents. For purposes of verifying if indeed this exercise took place, and as it was demanded by the specialist, some respondents were generally willing to be re-engaged to validate data, and for that purpose enumerators did record physical addresses for a few households.

2.5 Questionnaire Administration and Quality Control

The questionnaire was administered in a rapid and participatory manner by a team of twelve experienced enumerators, supported by a specialist. The specialist mainly supervised the household survey, conducted targeted stakeholder consultations with key informants, guided sampling of households (drawing from local enumerator's knowledge of the area/place), and managed all field survey logistics. A total of 600 questionnaires were administered from 14 to 21 March 2020. Out of the 600, 580 questionnaires were verified and processed for analysis.

Quality control mechanisms were performed to ensure that data collected is of high quality. This involved (i) daily meetings between enumerators and the specialist to discuss challenges faced during the day; (ii) exchange of completed questionnaires among the enumerators themselves to check the completeness of responses; and (iii) vetting of the completed questionnaires by the specialist and data validation by the data analyst.

2.6 Data Entry, Analysis and Report Preparation

Following cleaning and validation, survey data was processed using Excel software and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 21 of 2012. After the data entry was completed, validation tests were carried out to check quality and completeness by undertaking consistency and range checks tests. The analysis of the data took the forms of descriptive statistics and comparative analysis across gender and local authorities (LAs), with cross tabulations extracted to be incorporated into section 3 and 4 (and other relevant sections) of this report.

2.7 Challenges experienced during the Study

Generally, the study was conducted as pedantically as possible, and no major challenges were experienced during the survey process. However, one may wish to highlight that focus group discussions (FGD) and/or any other approach that required bringing people together, be it in small or big groups, was rendered impossible due to mixed messages on the COVID-19 situation as these were being relayed by various authorities and sectors of the law enforcement units.

Similarly, the general public health concerns and related developments prior to the lockdown of Erongo added to the confusion, prompting a decision to rather explore and obtain any additional or pending information using alternative modes e.g. virtual engagements. However, noting that alternative options including virtual platforms relying on information communication technologies (ICTs) would be inaccessible to all target groups (especially for FGDs), the consulting firm relied heavily on primary and secondary sources, including targeted individual discussions to draw inferences on the geo-political landscape and socio-economic situation of inhabitants.

3. HOUSEHOLD SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The study revealed a diverse socio-economic profile of inhabitants in the study area while portraying some similarities in social setups and lifestyle characteristics. In addition, valuable information on demographic characteristics – which may inform key investment decisions and also guide sustainable community engagement – was obtained and summarized in the following sub-sections.

3.1 Gender and Age of Head[6] of Household

Age and gender of the head of household are important variables in that they inform on the general social set-up of that given society and crucial in guiding as to who to target when developing, for example, a community engagement plan as well as in determining and targeting interventions that are deemed feasible to that community. In terms of gender of head of household, the study indicated that across target communities 55% and 44.7% of households interviewed were headed by males and females, respectively. By comparison to national statistics, this is in line with the Namibia Inter-censal Demographic Survey (NIDS) of 2016 which reported that 53.6% and 46.4% of households were headed by males and females, respectively (NSA[7], 2016). In contrast, the study showed that female-headed households (52.5%) were dominant in Usakos compared to male-headed households (47.5%). Notably, across the study area females (54%) appears to have participated more in the survey process despite the fact that males headed most of the households.

Furthermore, the study showed that households in Usakos (43%) and Otjimbingwe (40.6%) were headed by relatively older people (>56 years of age) whereas the majority of heads of households in Karibib (42%) and Namdeb (30%) were in the age group of 31–40 years (see Figure 1). In addition, Namdeb also showed the highest proportion of heads of households in the 18–30 age group as reported by 28% of households in that area. A few child-headed (age <18 years) households were recorded, with 2 in Usakos and 1 each in Karibib and Namdeb – accounting for about 1% of all households interviewed. These findings were validated by a local youth activist and appear to be in agreement with national statistics as reported in the NIDS of 2016.

This baseline study found that productively active heads of households, represented by age groups 18–30 and 31–40 years, are significantly fewer (2 to 3-fold) in Usakos and Otjimbingwe than in Karibib and Namdeb (Figure 1).

[6] According to the Namibia Statistics Agency, the head of household refer to a person, of either sex who is looked upon by other members of the household as their leader or main decision-maker.
[7] Namibia Statistics Agency (2016). Namibia Inter-censal Demographic Survey 2016 Report. 136p.

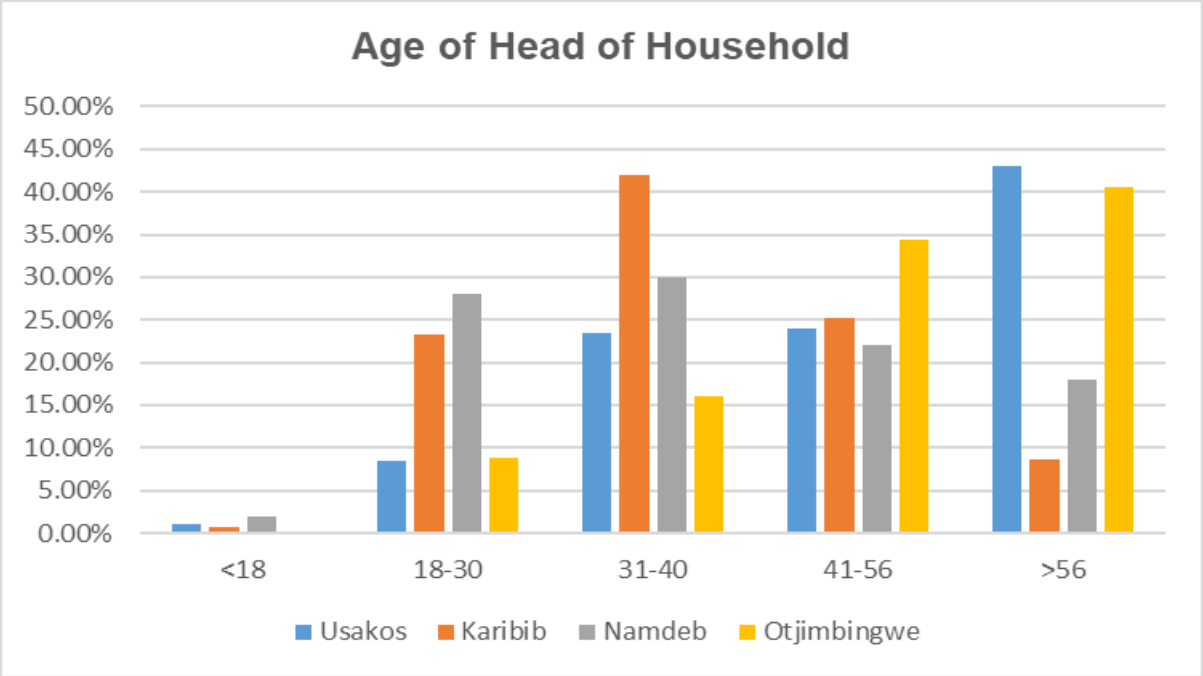

Figure 1: Age category of head of household per target area

3.1.1 Marital status of household head

In line with the observation that majority (59.4%) of residents in the study area were relatively younger people (see Figure 3) in the age groups of 18 – 35 years (accounting for 26.1%) and 36 – 60 years (33.2%), it turned out that majority of the households (57.9%) were headed by unmarried (single) persons. This finding is consistent with the post-factum discussions with one of the elders (Ms. Karondewe – Okongava village) who confirmed that generally people in the study area tend to get married late in their lives.

According to Figure 2, proportion of married heads of households was lowest in Namdeb (22%), followed by Usakos (22.8%), Karibib (32.7%) and Otjimbingwe (35.8%). The observed trend seems to be just 3% below the generalized national marital status of 31% in 2016 (NSA, 2016).

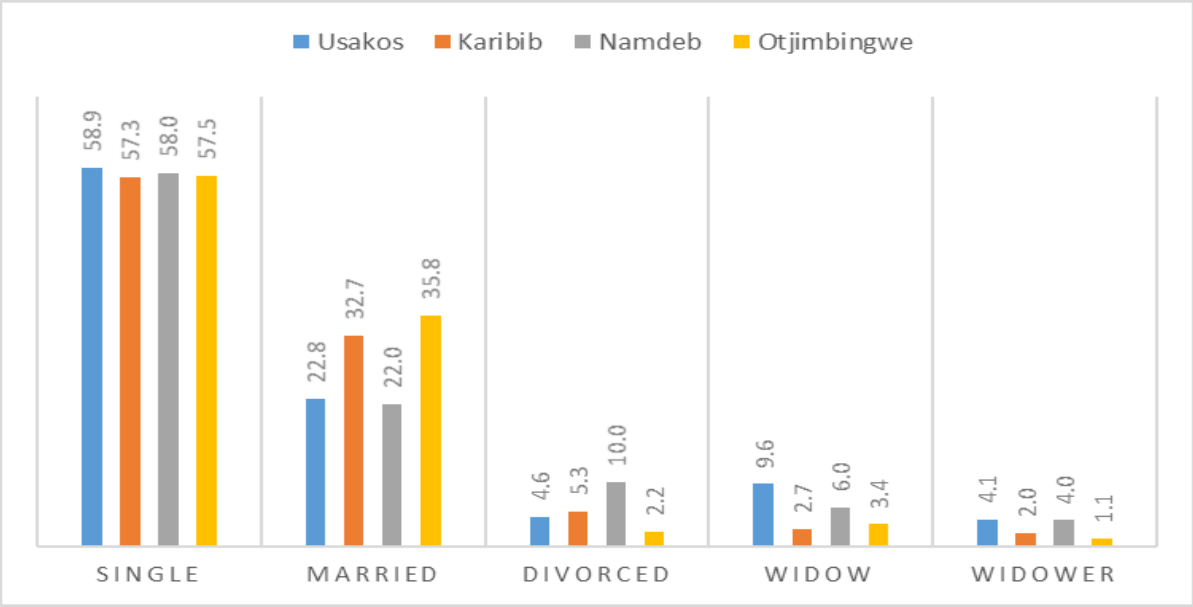

Figure 2: Marital status (%) of head of household per target area

3.2 Household size and composition

Across target communities, the average size of the household was 5.15, and ranged between 3.6 and 6.3 persons (Table 2) – being slightly higher than the national average (NSA, 2016). Otjimbingwe had larger household sizes – the largest being 26 members in one household. In some rural settings, this is possible.

Table 2: Average household size

Place	Maximum Head Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
Karibib (N = 150)	11	4.94	2.4
Namdeb (N = 50)	9	3.60	2.2
Otjimbingwe (N = 180)	26	6.34	4.1
Usakos (N = 200)	14	4.61	2.5

Generally, the household structure portrays a typical expanding population, with bias towards the active parental grouping (adult segment) at their prime age, a younger segment (youth members), children and few pensioners (Figure 3). Household composition is a key indicator in social development in that:

i. It has implications on targeting of any potential community project especially those with special considerations for vulnerable groups e.g. women (who are generally relatively vulnerable in equity) and the economically inactive groups in that accurate documentation of these groups would ensure tailored support while ensuring that their participation in various development interventions is considered a priori;

ii. It is a direct measure of potentially available labour within a given society, and for external development partners and potential employers to draw from

should employment opportunities arise. For example, community participation in self-help development interventions with a targeting criteria of able-bodied households would be influenced by labour provided by the communities itself; and

iii. When analysed from a perspective of household income and income sources, this variable informs on the within-family dependency burden as well as the vulnerability factor of that household.

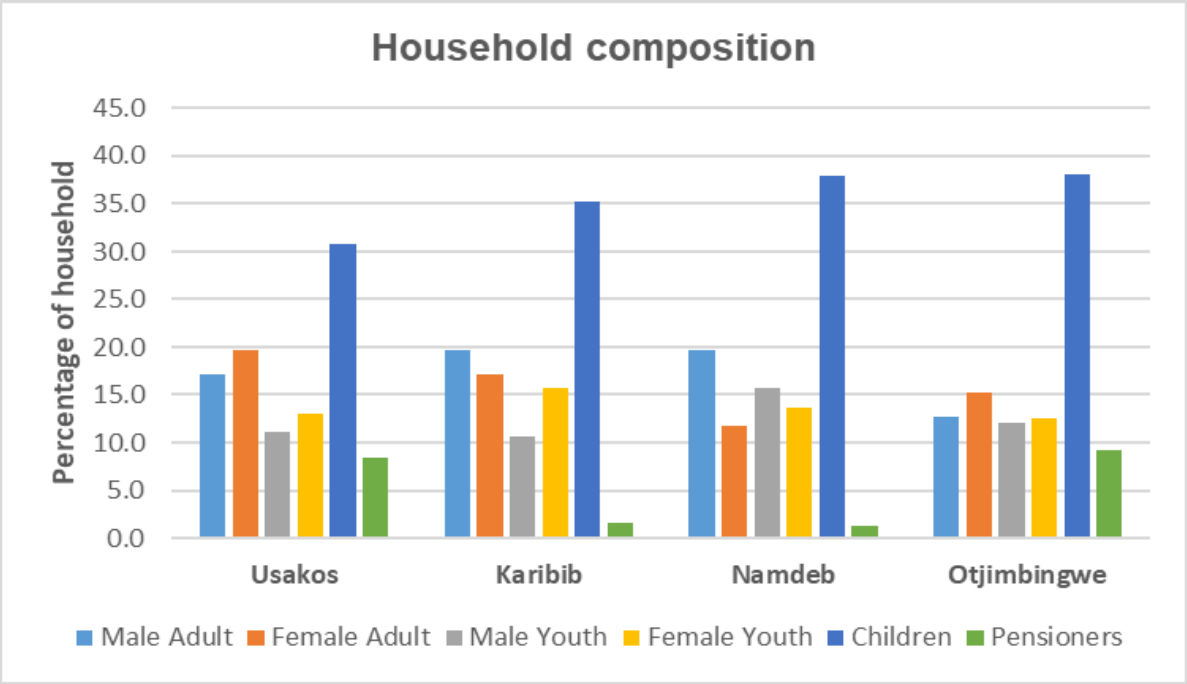

Figure 3: Household composition per target area

Figure 3 shows that there is a notable variation, with marginal differences in some instances, on the household gender category across the target areas. Usakos and Otjimbingwe had relatively more female than male adults, accounting for 19.6% vs. 17.1% and 15.3% vs. 12.7%, respectively. In contrast, Karibib and Namdeb had more male than female adults in the ratio of 19.6% vs. 17.2% and 19.6% vs. 11.8%, respectively. The same trend was noticed for male and female youths across the study areas, with the exception of Karibib where male youths accounted for 10.7% and female youths 15.7%.

Children accounted for 30.7% (Usakos) to 38.1% (Otjimbingwe), whereas pensioners accounted for 1.3% (Namdeb) to 9.2% (Otjimbingwe) of households. Notably, overall the larger segment consist of able bodied persons (59.4%) than children (35.5%) – indicating availability of the critical mass that could be relied upon as labour for various household/community development activities and/or to be tapped into by potential employers, subject to skill-to-job matching.

3.2.1 Orphan-hood and disability

The study revealed that out of a total of 767 children, 89 (11.6%) were orphans – having lost either or both of the parents (see Table 3). On average, these findings are in line with the national average of 11.1% (NSA, 2016). Within the study area, Usakos (with 20.5% of children in the household being orphans) had the highest orphans, followed by Namdeb (10.3%), Otjimbingwe (10.2%) and Karibib (4.8%). It is well documented that in areas with limited opportunities and unemployment challenges, and if coupled with high school dropouts; planning the future of youth (young adults) becomes a critical social issue requiring special attention in that without proper support, this group gets derailed and end up contributing to the social ills of that given society. In light of this, the study also documented the number of orphaned youths to highlight this statistics to Lepedico as this group (and youth in general) has special needs to be taken into account when designing social development programs. In summary, Otjimbingwe recorded the highest orphaned youths (19 out of 569 youths), followed by Karibib (13), Usakos (10) and Namdeb (2).

Further, as presented in Table 3, the study showed that 3% (65 persons) of the sampled population (n = 2,188) had some form of disability[8]. This figure is slightly lower than the national average of 4.7%.

Table 3: Orphans by sub-category and disabled population in the study area

Category	Usakos	Karibib	Namdeb	Otjimbingwe
	[Persons]			
Orphans				
Babies (<6 years)	7		1	3
Boys (6 – 17 years)	19	5	3	14
Girls (6 – 17 years)	17	5	2	13
Youth (18 – 35 years)	10	13	2	19
Disabled persons				
Male (all age groups)	7	6	2	21
Female (all age groups)	15	1	2	11

With the exception of orphans (for which Usakos recorded the highest number), Otjimbingwe had the highest population of children, highest proportion of pensioners, and also a higher number of disabled persons, but a smaller segment (28.0%) of economically active adults – indicating a heavier dependency[9] ratio on the latter. Based on the above findings and should Lepidico consider assisting the socially deprived members of society through targeted community development programs, it

[8] Taken in the broadest sense, and qualified as recipients of the disability grant from government.

[9] The dependency ratio (DR) is an age-population ratio of those typically not in the labour force – the proportion of children (under 18 years) and old people (above 60 years), and those typically in the labour force, otherwise the economically active group. In general, DR is used to measure the pressure on the latter productive population.

is evident that the area has sufficient abled bodies to ensure the success of most projects and interventions.

3.3 Education level, key skills and experience of residents in the study area

For developing economies, given the record development deficit and a myriad of development challenges, investment in education and skills acquisition is considered as the key to spur exit out of poverty, unemployment, and inequality. Borrowing from the Harambee Prosperity Plan – the Government's plan to ensure prosperity for all, "*the rationale to prioritise and invest in particularly vocational education and training (VET) stems from the recognition that VET can be a sustainable source of skills, knowledge and technology needed to drive productivity in knowledge-based and transitional societies of the current century*". On that basis, documenting education levels, general experience and VET skills possessed by inhabitants in the study area would be crucial to Lepidico as a potential employer, and also to guide in designing appropriate community-oriented education and skills enhancement programs.

Figure 4 shows that a quarter of household heads in Otjimbingwe did not attend any formal education, followed by Usakos (21%), Namdeb (16%) and Karibib (2%). On the same trend, a further 24.4%, 19.5%, 18% and 9.3% of household heads in Otjimbingwe, Usakos, Namdeb and Karibib respectively, ended their academic careers at primary school level.

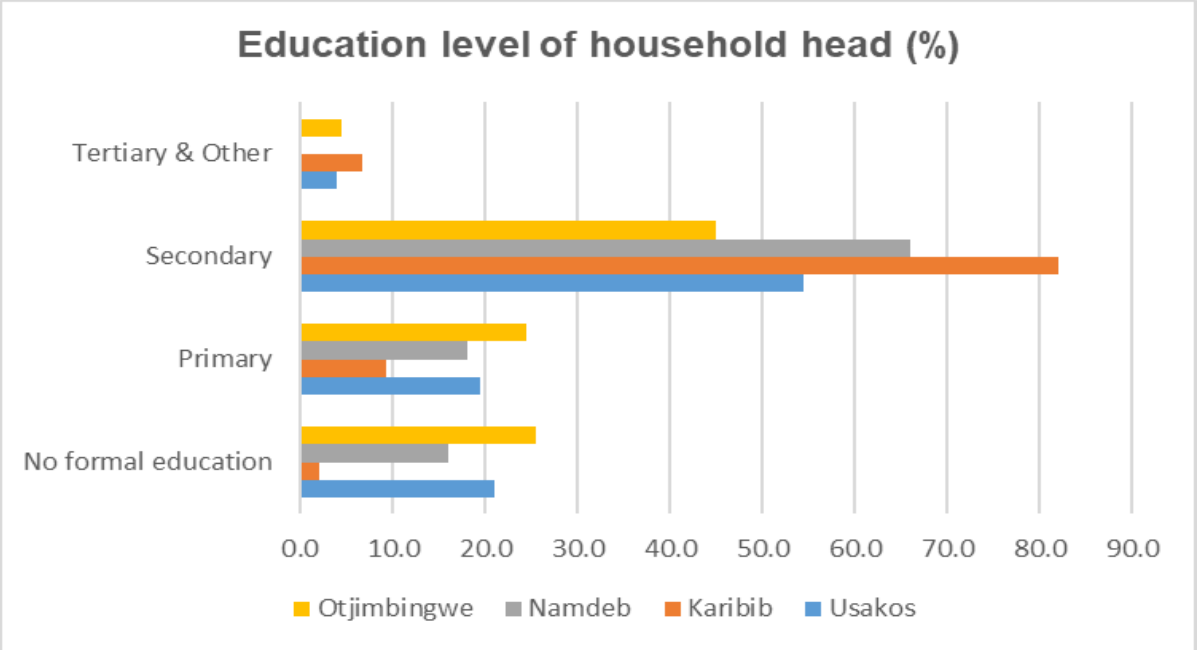

Figure 4: Education level of head of household per target area

As regards to the attendance of secondary education level, only 45% of household heads in Otjimbingwe reached secondary/high school level, whereas for Usakos

(54.5%), Namdeb (66%) and Karibib (82%), more than half of the household heads reached secondary or high school level. Attainment of tertiary education, including vocational and other types of training by household heads was generally very low, accounting for just under 4%.

When it comes to information on the education level of unemployed female and male youth, not all respondents[10] could confidently confirm the education level of the youth member(s) of their household. Hence, only 38% of respondents confirmed, with a high degree of confidence, the education levels of the member(s) in question. With exception of Usakos, for which seemingly high anomalous (when compared to the national average of 0.5% (NSA, 2016)) figures of 36.9% and 36% for unemployed female youth (UFY) and unemployed male youth (UMY) respectively, were reported as not having attended any formal education; the rest of the target communities reported figures that are, in our view, more realistic. In Karibib, the unemployed youth (UFY and UMY combined) who did not attend any formal education accounted for just below 3% whereas for Namdeb and Otjimbingwe the corresponding figures were slightly over 10%, in both communities (Figure 5).

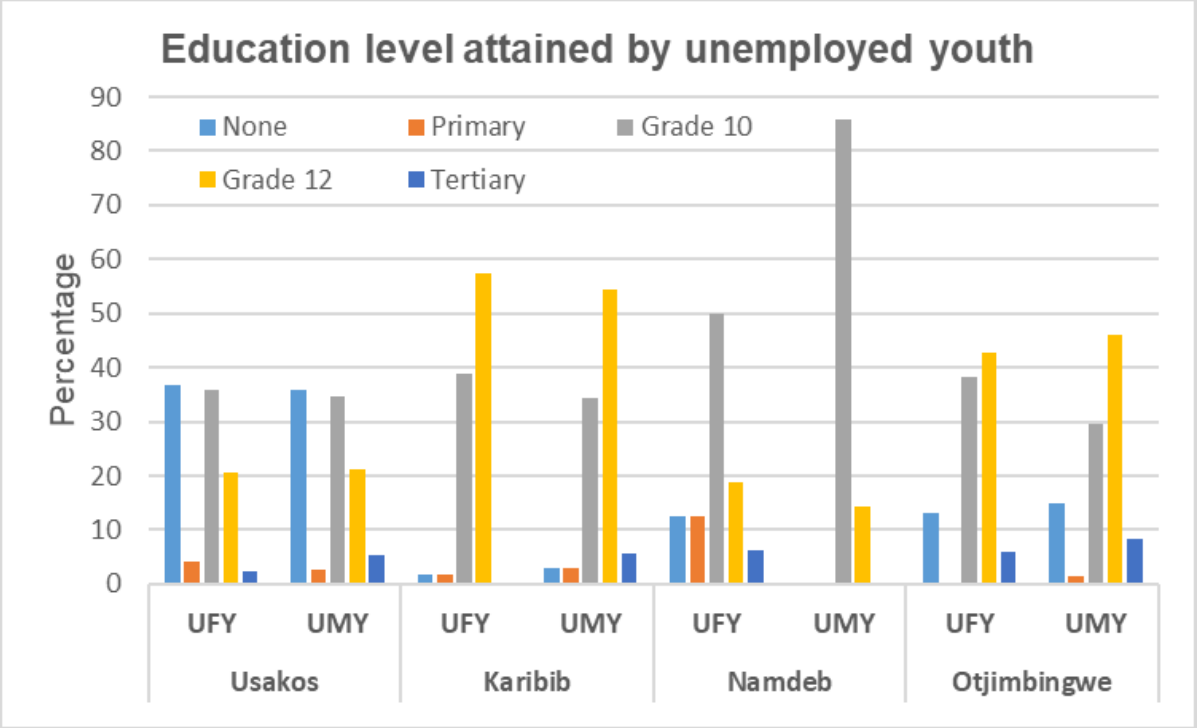

Figure 5: Percentage education levels attained by unemployed youth

Attendance of secondary/high school by unemployed youth in target communities shows statistics that are higher than the national average. For example, on average

[10] In some instances respondents were not necessarily heads of households and would not have all information on all members of the households.

40.8% and 46.1% of UFY and UMY respectively, reached Grade 10. A further 34.8% and 34% of UFY and UMY respectively, reached Grade 12. Compared to the national average of 22.6% for the population that reached/completed secondary level education, one can clearly note the immense potential within the target communities, particularly for UFY and UMY. In terms of tertiary education, Otjimbingwe had the highest UFY (5.9%) and UMY (8.2%) who attained tertiary education level, followed by Namdeb UFY (6.3%), Karibib UMY (5.7%), and Usakos UMY (5.3%) and UFY (2.5%). Based on these observations, and as per the expressed needs of the local communities (see section 4.2) it is evident that investments in skills enhancement programs in the form of vocational training and/or continuous learning opportunities may have to be considered as a key priority for nearly all residents in the study area, and particularly for Otjimbingwe and Usakos.

In light of education levels as well as the diverse skills and experiences possessed by members of the target community (Figure 6), the study revealed that the target communities would have an abundance of low-skilled and unskilled labour – some of whom can easily be trained through e.g. on-the-job training, short-courses, and adult learning to assume various roles in different sectors and industries. Of relevance to Lepidico is the proportion of residents (Karibib – 28%; Namdeb – 18%; and Usakos – 17%) who indicated possession of key experience in mining and/or related fields. Surprisingly, and despite the fact that the study area is largely and generally considered as a [livestock] farming area, very few residents from the economically active segment (18 to 60 years) had farming experience (7.6%). Similarly, of the pensioners segment those with farming experience accounted for just under 3%, across target communities.

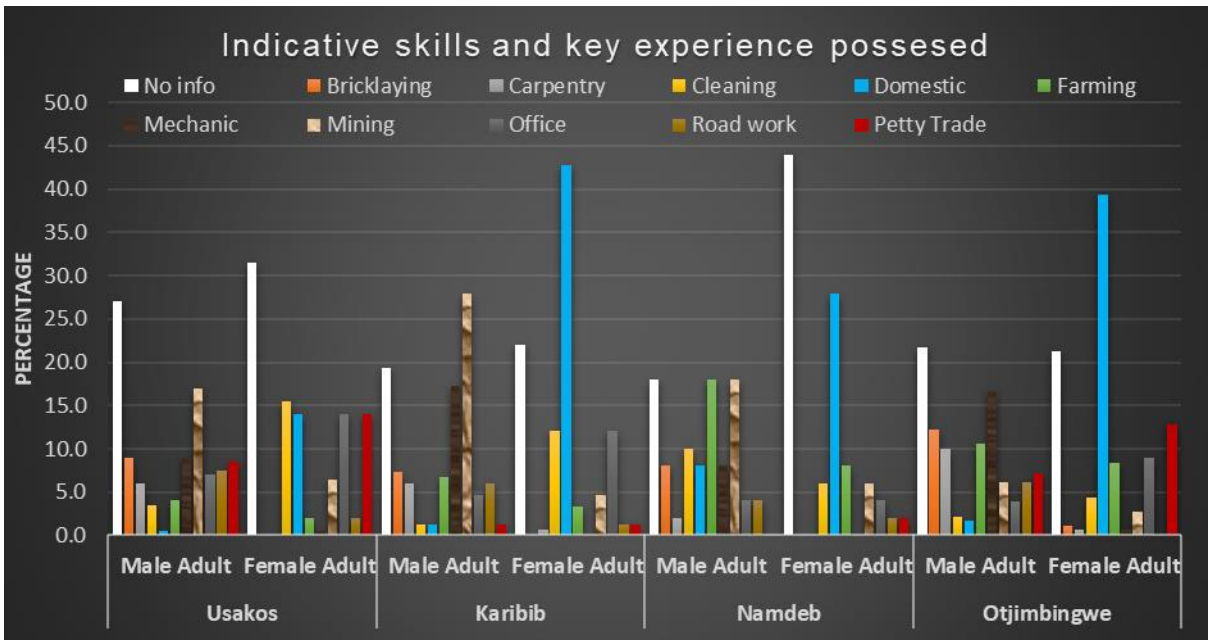

Figure 6: Indicative skills and key experience possessed by residents

3.4 Education institutions attended by household members

For convenience and ease of access, over 90% of pre-primary and primary school learners attended schools in their respective towns/places. However, for Namdeb most pre-primary (61.5%) and primary school (92.3%) learners attended pre-primary and primary schools in Karibib because education institutions are non-existent at that settlement.

As regards to Junior and Senior Secondary (High) School, a similar trend in which town-based (local) schools were generally preferred over schools in other places was observed. In Usakos, 80.9% and 85.3% of learners attended Junior and Senior Secondary (High) School respectively, based in Usakos. Similarly, 64.9% and 50% of learners in Karibib attended Junior and Senior Secondary (High) School respectively, within Karibib – except for 17.6% (Junior Secondary learners) who attended schools in the nearby town of Omaruru. For learners hailing from Namdeb, their preferred Junior (58.8%) and Senior Secondary/High (50%) where schools mainly in Karibib. Nearly, all Otjimbingwe learners attended Junior and Secondary (High) Schools within Otjimbingwe.

For the few that attend school outside the borders of their own village or municipal district highlighted the following as the main reasons:

1. Perceived or well documented better academic performance at that specific institution;
2. Parents or relatives residing at the specific place; and
3. Academic opportunities – where in some instances (Namdeb being a case in point) there are no education institutions at the respondent's village/town.

Of the few household members who made it to tertiary education (Table 4) in the study area, majority (66.6%) attended an institution of higher learning in Usakos.

Table 4: Number of learners and students attending various education institutions

Education level	Usakos	Karibib	Namdeb	Otjimbingwe
Pre-primary	25	52	13	22
Primary	88	83	13	115
Junior Secondary	47	74	17	35
Senior Secondary (High)	34	{6}	2	99
Tertiary (18+ years)	0	6	2	2
TOTAL	**194**	**221**	**47**	**273**

Of the children[11] (all being in the school-going age) segment within households, 96.8% were enrolled in formal education system, being in concurrence with national average for that age group (NSA, 2016). On average 14%, 34.4%, 21.2%, 24.8% and 2.4% were in pre-primary, primary, junior secondary and senior secondary (high)

[11] Aged 6 to 18 years.

schools respectively, mainly across the study area. However, a few (mainly those in senior secondary/high) attended schools in the surrounding town of Omaruru.

At national level, statistics shows that very few scholars (only 1 in 5) ultimately reach institutions of higher learning. This is indeed worrisome in that, unless multi-nationals as well as government's pro-education drive pick up steam and invest heavily in the education of a Namibian child; the nation's aspiration of having a knowledge-based economy by 2030 would be far-fetched and shall remain a pipeline dream.

3.5 Household main income and income sources, and occupation

The study revealed that income sources were diverse (Figure 7), with a strong bias on social grants which sustained 27.8% of the households.

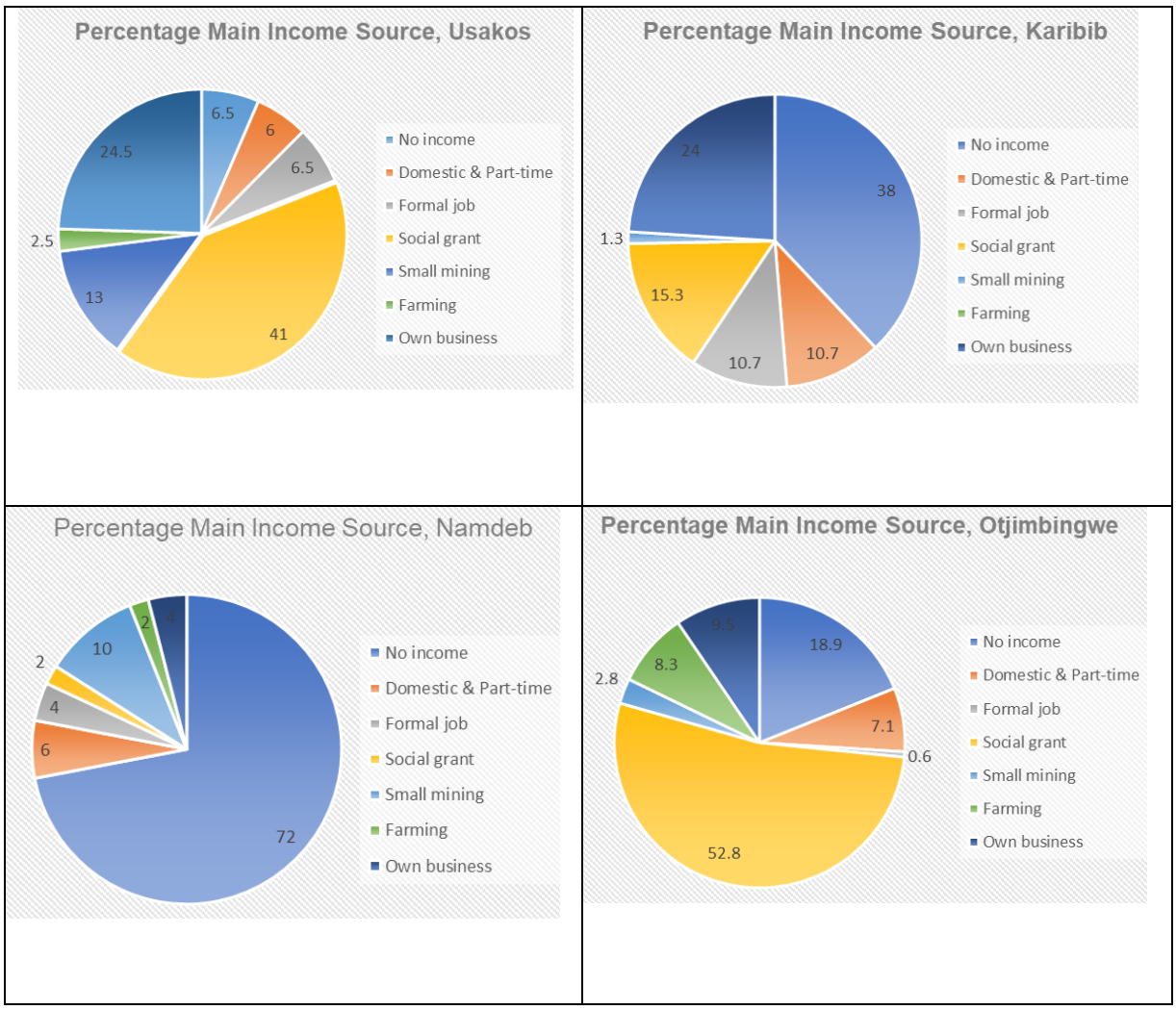

Figure 7: Main income source (%) of household head by target community

Based on the findings portrayed in Figure 7, it is worrisome to note that a relatively high number of heads of household in Namdeb (72%), Karibib (38%) and

Otjimbingwe (18.9%) had no income. Similarly, majority of other household members did not have incomes – Namdeb (86%), Otjimbingwe (63.9%), Karibib (63.3%) and Usakos (46%). The only notable exception was 15% of households who had own businesses for additional income in Usakos; 15% in Otjimbingwe who had members employed as civil servants; and 14.7% who had own businesses in Karibib.

Social grants was relied upon as the main income source by 52.8%, 41% and 15.3% of households in Otjimbingwe, Usakos and Karibib, respectively. Interestingly, despite having no reliable income, households in Namdeb also do not draw much from social grants, with only 2% drawing benefits from this grant mechanism of the state. Formal employment accounted for incomes of only 10.7%, 6.5%, 4% and 0.6% of heads of households in Karibib, Usakos, Namdeb and Otjimbingwe, respectively. Reliable farming income was recorded by only 8.3%, 2.5% and 2% of households in Otjimbingwe, Usakos and Namdeb, respectively.

As regards to years of employment (Figure 8) in current positions (for the few that are in formal employment), majority (33%) are in their first 5 years, followed by those in their 5 – 10 years (22.3%) of employment.

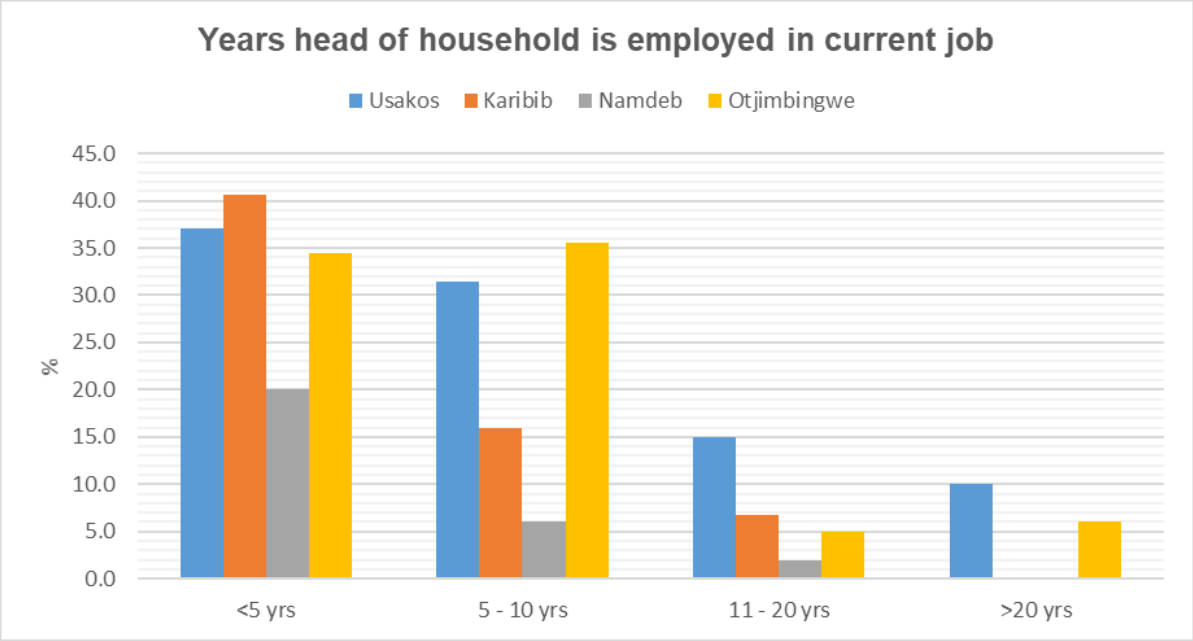

Figure 8: Years (as %) household head is employed in current positions

Nearly half (48.3%) of the sampled households had a combined monthly income in the range of NAD 0 to 999 (Figure 9). This was followed by the income bracket of NAD 1,000 to 2,999 which represented the average of income of 34% of households. Notably, nearly all income-earners (84%) residing at Namdeb are in the lowest income category. On the same trend, 93.9% of the income-earners in Otjimbingwe were in the bottom two income categories. These observations, coupled with other findings pertaining to the socio-economic situation of residents – as highlighted in the latter sections of this report, clearly confirm Namdeb and Otjimbingwe (and Usakos,

to some extent) as multiple deprivation hotspots requiring massive investments and programs in the social development space to effectively address the plight of those in need.

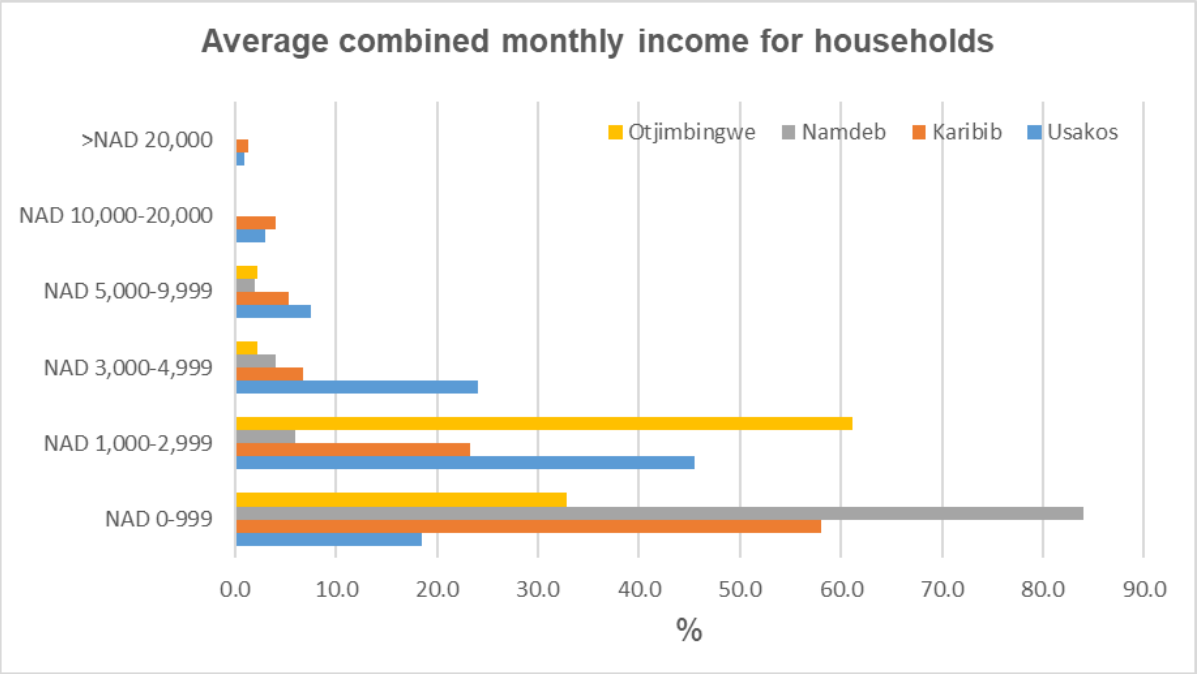

Figure 9: Average combined monthly income for households in the study area

The low educational attainments of both the sampled heads and members of households and the respective occupational distributions (see section 3.3) are testimony to the abovementioned earnings. On that basis, households have exceptionally low shares of individuals employed in industries and professional occupations often requiring higher education. The good representation (up to 24.5% – see Figure 7) of households where some members have an entrepreneurial flair could be a good entry point for entrepreneurship and business skills development support, targeting vulnerable groups especially youth-headed and female-headed households with the view to gradually address the hardships they face.

From an income perspective, and considering the very high dependency on small but useful social grants drawn by a few household members, it is evident that majority of households in the study area are likely to be very vulnerable to various shocks, with the likelihood of food insecurity to manifest from limited food accessibility (as a result poor incomes) and inability to produce own food (as agriculture/food production is only practised by very few households). As such, efforts geared towards sustainable food production at household level as well as improved incomes and income diversification through e.g. increased employment opportunities will have to be among top priorities by local and external investors as well as the government.

4. SERVICE PROVISION AND COMMUNITY NEEDS

As a norm, effective and efficient service delivery requires of the service provider to avail the demanded quality service in a timely, socio-culturally acceptable and cost-effective manner to recipient customers/clients. Similarly, it is expected of the latter, and through avenues such as this and other surveys, to relate and share views on the broad spectrum of services provided by different players in a given area. To this end, substantive information was gathered, and inferences drawn from the survey process, to enlighten Lepidico on general service delivery in the study area.

4.1 Perceptions on service provision

4.1.1 Financial services and access to credit

Traditionally, financial services (in their different types and values) follows an income trigger which is evident (see section 3.5) and translate to millions[12] of dollars within target communities. Financial saving and related services (the simplest and most accessible being those offered by Nampost Bank) and credit facilities can, if used for intended purposes especially income-generating activities, contribute towards socio-economic development, even at the micro level. This is on the premise that financial injections in the form credit or grants enables individuals/communities to start and/or expand viable businesses, rebuild assets (say after disasters like droughts, floods, etc.) and enable families to mitigate shocks during time of emergencies e.g. death in the family. For all intents and purposes, all these should allow families/communities to meet financial needs and stimulate economic growth which ultimately improve the quality of life of service recipient(s).

Based on survey findings, 52.5%, 40%, 12% and 36.7% of households in Usakos, Karibib, Namdeb and Otjimbingwe respectively, had access to formal credit facilities and/or financial services (mainly reputable commercial banks, Nampost and a few micro-lenders). On the contrary, 86.7% of households across the study area did not use informal credit facilities and financial services, citing limited presence or fore knowledge of such facilities, trust issues and fear of asset repossession in case of repayment default as the main reasons. Of the 13% who occasionally used informal credit facilities and financial services (which included mainly soft loans/advances from employers, relatives, neighbours and friends) as well as 74% and 51% of households in Namdeb and Otjimbingwe respectively, who did not use formal credit facilities indicated lack of collateral (as most are also not employed, have not asset base and hence do not have anything to financiers) and general lack of information about financial services/products offered by different providers as the main reasons.

[12] Simple computations involving less than 5% (<580) of the households in the target area translates to an income of > NAD 500,000 which, by extrapolation and generalization to the broader area, could mean a much bigger pool of available money from which various players e.g. micro lenders, funeral underwriters, etc. could draw benefits in exchange for various financial services.

Sufficient personal grounding on financial matters/products offered or simply stated, financial literacy is important because it equips people with the knowledge and skills that are needed to manage money effectively as well as to guide families when making key financial decision. As such, financial decisions or actions taken/not taken – some of which could be detrimental to families especially in the event of wrong financial decisions, should be guided by well-informed financial planning. The latter, however insignificant it may appear to some sectors of society, could be one such area in which partners should invest time and other resources. This is on the premise that improper financial management and/or decisions has both direct and indirect impacts on households and the society/community at large – ultimately affecting employees at workplace.

4.1.2 Condition of roads, and common transport assets owned and used

Roads, both in-town and between towns/villages, are vital elements which contribute significantly to socio-economic development in enhancing employment opportunities, access to social, health and education services, and most importantly ensuring that economic goods reach end consumers. Despite their importance, it was evident that the maintenance of roads within the towns of Usakos and Karibib as well as the gravel road between Karibib and Otjimbingwe was sub-standard as per respondent's assertions. When asked to share a user's perspective on the condition of roads, Mr. Tjiueza – a transport operator from Otjimbingwe, was quick to stress that it was time for government, with support from private sector actors and multi-national companies in the mining and related industries to jointly explore ways to raise funds to upgrade the Karibib-Otjimbingwe-Wilhelemstahl road to bitumen standards. Similarly, local traditional leaders pointed out that use of roads in the area is increasingly becoming a threat to the lives of the road users, while also contributing to the wear and tear, and faster erosion of the few transport assets owned by only 28.1% of households across the study area. As shown in Figure 10, Otjimbingwe households ranked highest (34%) in terms of *any form* of transport owned, followed by Usakos (31%), Karibib (27%) and Namdeb (8%).

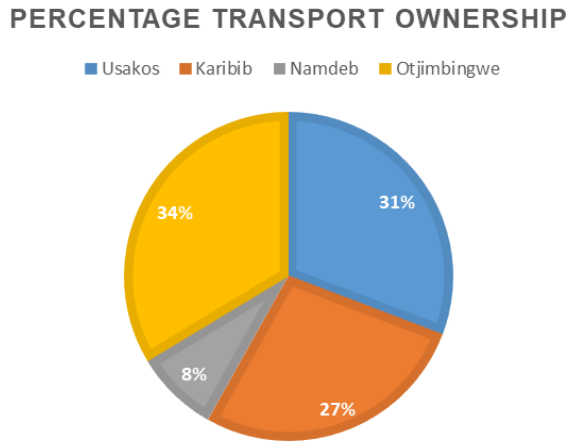

Figure 10: Households owning transport

As regards to type of transport owned, 163 households (28.1%) across all target communities indicated that they owned a motor vehicle. Apart from a few informal transport operators, a well-regulated public transportation system seems non-existent. As such, transport challenges remain top of the issues raised by residents in the study area.

There was limited information on use, regulation and condition of facilities for air travel and rail networks in the area.

4.1.3 Water supply and sanitation

In line with the aspirations of the government – which is to ensure that all Namibians have access to basic services especially water – none of the households confirmed total deprivation from water services. However, there is clear disparities in terms of water sources as influenced by progress attained by local authorities on water reticulation services. In Usakos, the main water source was piped water connected to dwellings (74.5%) and centralized public taps (24.5%). In Karibib, majority (76%) of residents obtained water from public taps (see Photo 1) and only 22.7% had piped water (22.7%). Namdeb households largely depended on water provided through water tankers (58%) and natural open water sources e.g. ponds and rivers (28%). In Otjimbingwe, 82.8% obtained water from a public tap, and only 11.1% had water piped into their dwellings (Figure 11).

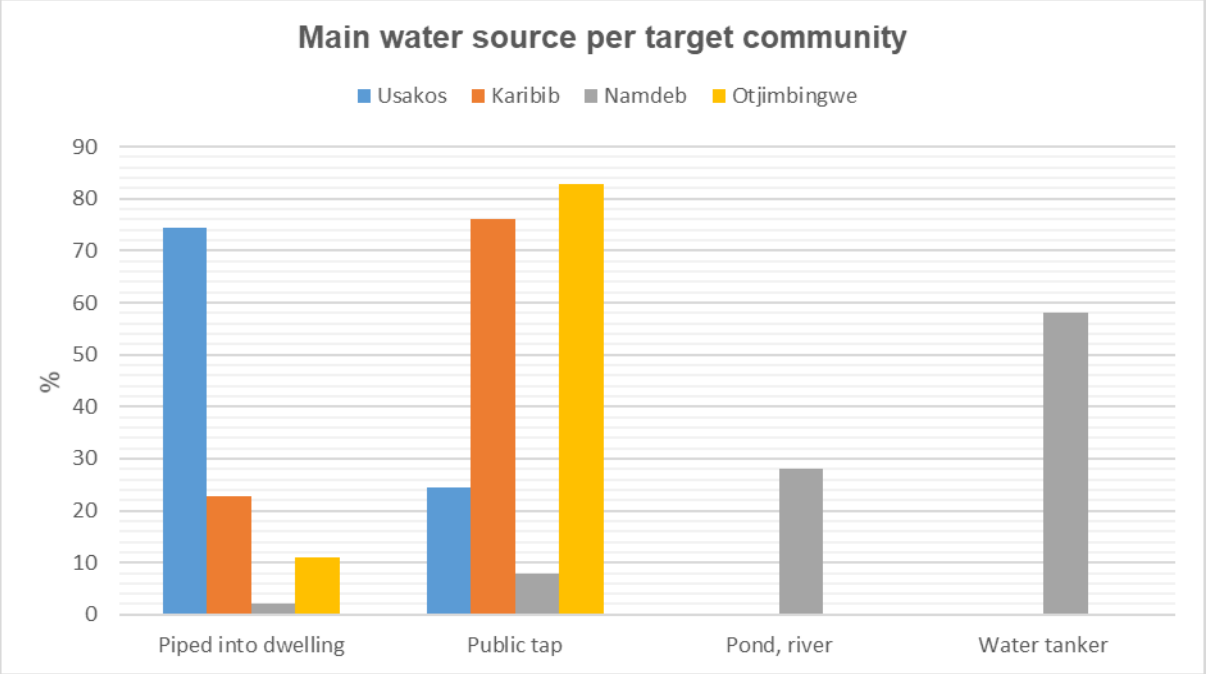

Figure 11: Main water sources in the study area

The above observations highlight real water reticulation challenges especially in low income neighbourhoods in Karibib and Usakos, whereas Otjimbingwe and Namdeb calls for massive investments in water supply infrastructure to ensure reliable and hygienic water supply especially for Namdeb households that rely on seasonal open water sources and irregular water trucking.

Photo 1: Public water tap and common housing structures in the low-income area of Karibib

As regards to sanitation, and as judged from the broadest sense of the word, LAs in Karibib and Usakos as well as the settlement administration in Otjimbingwe try their level best to ensure adequate public health conditions, including clean drinking water and acceptable treatment and disposal of human excreta and sewage. However, the LAs have been facing financial challenges which cripple effective service delivery (a key concern being ablution facilities/systems – Figure 12 & 13), leading to frequent unsightly sanitary conditions (Photo 2) with potential serious health implications.

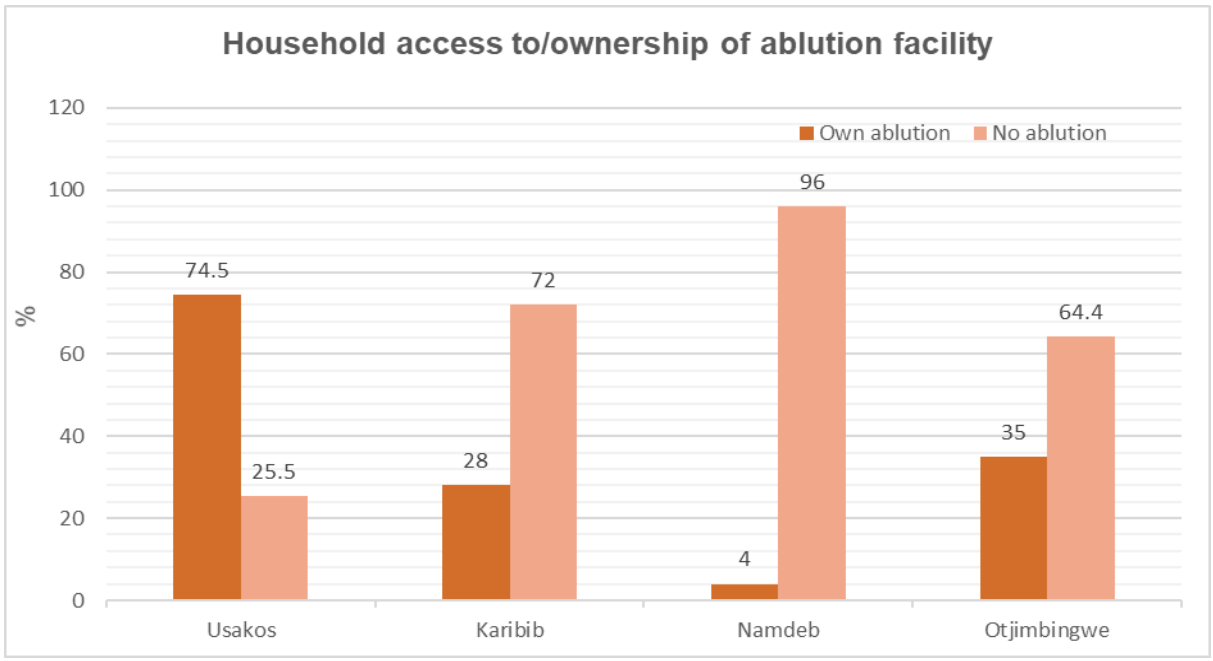

Figure 12: Household access to ablution facility

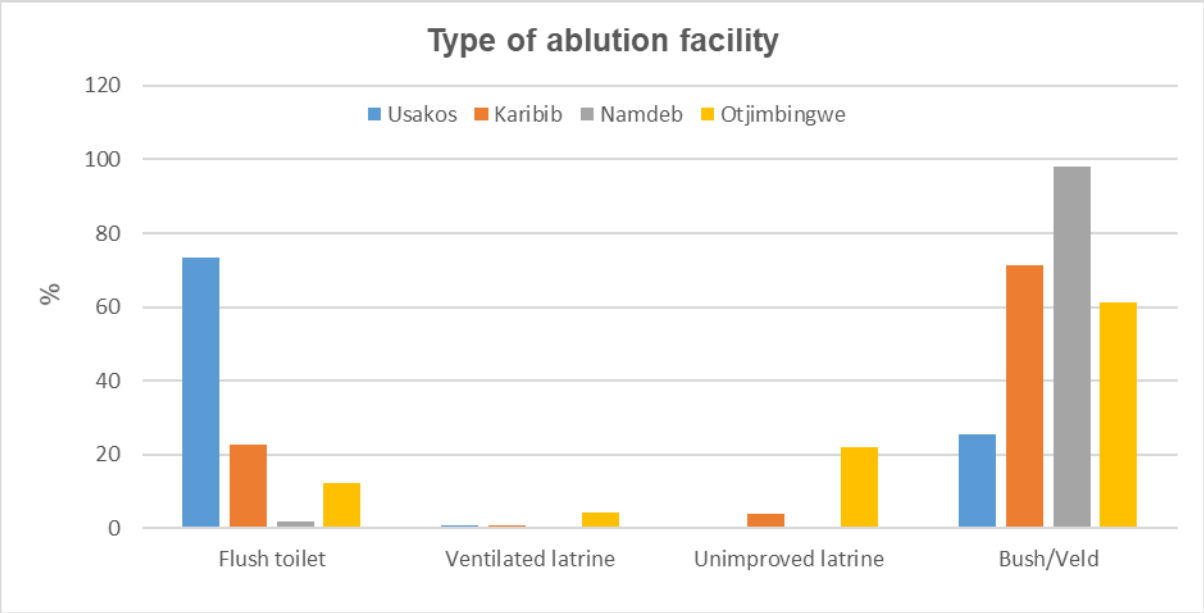

Figure 13: Type of ablution facility

Considering that a significantly high number of households (Namdeb – 96%; Karibib – 72% and Otjimbingwe – 64.4%) did not have access/own ablution facilities and the fact that most households in the target communities resorted to 'bush/veld toilet' (Figure 13) when nature calls, there is a looming danger which may see a repeat of outbreaks (e.g. Hepatitis E) such as those experienced in Windhoek and a few other towns in the recent years. As part of taking early action and associated preventative measures, situations such as that portrayed in Photo 2 calls for collection action and expedited investments in servicing new townships and settlements while managing rural-urban migration issues – the root cause of the mushrooming of these townships and settlements (commonly referred to as "shanty towns").

Photo 2: Overflowing sewage system in Usakos

4.1.4 Health services

Access to a comprehensive, quality health care service(s) is important for promoting and maintaining health, preventing and timely management of illnesses, reducing unnecessary disability and premature death (emanating from health complications), and achieving health equity for all. In light of mixed experiences and general rating of health services in the study area, it is apparent that the above slogan (as adapted from various national documents) seems farfetched.

In **Otjimbingwe**, all sampled households had not visited any public or private hospital, nor have they accessed any pharmacy. Similarly, services provided by community health workers and traditional healers were not known to them. The only health facility they were aware of was their local clinic which 65% of the households rated as poor in terms of service delivery.

Majority (84%) of households in **Usakos** rated public hospitals as satisfactory to excellent in terms of service whereas 74% indicated that they had not dealt with private hospitals before, and hence wouldn't provide any rating. Similarly, Usakos residents (72%) rated the services of their local clinic as satisfactory. Being in close proximity to each other, and largely sharing same health facilities (mainly the public hospitals), households in **Karibib** shared similar sentiments as those of Usakos households regarding rating of health services. As for local clinics, 52% of the households in Usakos indicated that the services were poor and pointed out that clinics needed to be upgraded and be better equipped in most respects e.g. staffing, equipment, drugs, capacity to help more patients at a time (so as to reduce long queues), etc.

Regarding pharmacies, 46% of the households in Usakos indicated that their service as poor whereas by contrast 64% of the households in Karibib indicated that local pharmacies provided a satisfactory to excellent service.

Over 50% of households in **Namdeb** had not visited any hospital (whether public or private) and those (46%) who had some experience with these hospitals rated their service as poor. On the same trend, services of the local clinic (the nearest being in Karibib) was rated as poor by 88% of the households.

As a general observation, 81.9% and 70.7% of households did not use the services of traditional healers and community health workers respectively, across the target communities.

4.1.4.1 Leading causes of death and proposed remedial actions

Approximately 56% of the respondents were not comfortable to answer the question on major causes of recent death(s) in the household. Of those who responded, 8% indicated HIV and AIDS as the lead cause, followed by tuberculosis and associated lung infections (7%), high blood pressure and related heart ailments (5.1%), car accidents (5%) and various forms of cancer (4.9%).

Regarding proposed remedial actions, respondents could not come up with well-articulated responses, and indicated that health complications were beyond their understanding and relevant authorities/health experts will be better placed to advice. Even then, their main responses pointed to improved health services and strict road regulations, and better road maintenance to minimize fatal road accidents.

4.1.4.2 Participation in key health related matters at local level

Based on Figure 14, it is probable that target communities had limited exposure and lacked the necessary information on key health matters and risks that they might be facing on a daily basis. For example, community participation in general health care as well as HIV/AIDS matters was in the range of 44%, implying that the rest of the members were less aware and/or exposed, and thereby more vulnerable to succumb to various health risks they might not be aware of.

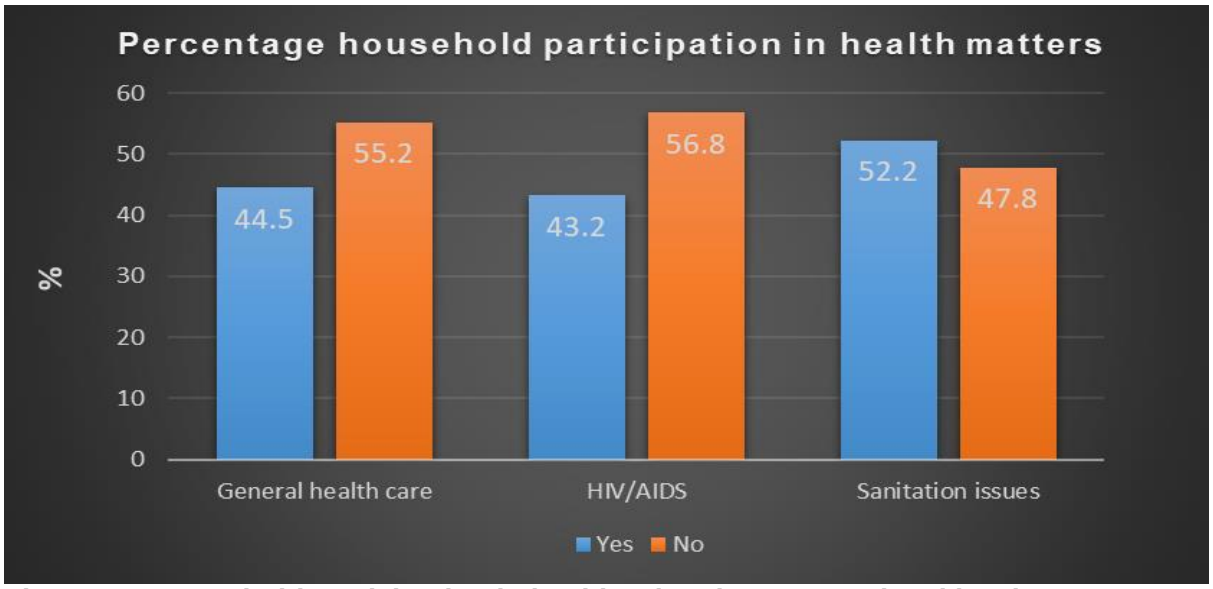

Figure 14: Household participation in health-related matters at local level

In some areas, awareness raising on general health care and related issues is a function carried out by health care workers. Unfortunately, it transpired that very few households (12.1%) drew benefits and exploited the services of these professionals. On the contrary, 11.6% of households indicated that the services of health care workers was poor. Based on these findings, there is an urgent need for effective awareness raising on the role of particularly health care and social workers in society, while strengthening their capacities to deliver on their function.

4.1.5 Housing, housing utilities and main energy sources

The issue of housing in Namibia remains a very complex and contentious subject. Owing to a myriad of factors including inter-regional movements and/or rural-urban migration (urbanisation), general under delivery of serviced land and housing, high

property prices in some regions and towns as well as the high unemployment rate (all of which effectively exclude/limit opportunities for low-income earners or those without regular income to acquire/own property); Namibia has seen itself with a housing backlog estimated at 100,000. Of particular concern is the mushrooming of “shanty towns” in most towns, including Usakos and Karibib as well as Namdeb and Uiba-Oas informal settlement area (see Photo 3).

As a general observation, a high but unquantified (at this stage) number of residents in the study area live either in a shack-type structures – Namdeb, Uiba-Oas and the bulk of Otjimbingwe settlements being a case in point, or houses that are a bit old and need upgrading – Usakos “location” houses being a case in point.

Photo 3: Common housing structures in informal settlements in the study area

In acknowledging the backlog and the general housing challenges, government rolled out the Mass Housing Initiative, which focuses among other issues on the provision of affordable priced housing units in selected towns and the servicing of municipal land for residential purposes. Furthermore, a number of LAs have actively sought to control the growth of informal settlements by various means, including the relaxation of specific building codes, making allowances for higher density zoning/planning/ building, demarcating and allocating un-serviced land prior to the legal formalisation of townships. Crucially, government has recently introduced a new Urban and Rural Planning Bill, which offers the opportunity to improve spatial planning in Namibia and establish a more enabling regulatory framework regarding urban planning.

Building on the aforementioned, there is consensus that it is perhaps high time that Namibia explore and exploit innovative technologies within the construction industry. These technologies may include alternative construction materials and methods which could have the potential of lowering costs and providing flexible housing options. A related aspect of alternative construction materials is the need within the country to focus more attention on green construction and urban design concepts that aim to create sustainable developments that also benefit the socio-economic aspects of the local community. The lack of consensus (among various players in the construction sector) on approaches to solving the housing shortfalls seems to be a limiting factor hampering progress on this front.

4.1.5.1 Housing utilities and energy sources

The study revealed that a high number (70.5%) of households in Usakos had utilities (e.g. electric stove and kettle, television sets, refrigerators, etc.) that required, and were connected to grid electricity, followed by Otjimbingwe (58.3%) whereas only 18.7% of sampled households in Karibib drew electricity from the grid. Surprisingly, 71.3% of sampled households in Karibib used a combination of solar systems for lighting and gas/wood for cooking and heating. Similarly, 94% of the households in Namdeb informal settlement relied on solar for lighting and gas/wood for cooking and heating.

Considering the relatively high electricity costs, key informants in target communities were of the view and suggested that government (and other development partners) may wish to explore possibility and modalities for massive roll out of subsidized solar-powered systems especially for low-income earners and vulnerable groups. Understandably, this would ensure sustainability and continued access to electricity while minimizing dependency on grid electricity which, more often than not, presents challenges to users including unannounced disconnections when in arrears.

4.1.6 Information communication technologies and related services

Approximately 90.5% and 87.6% of households across target communities owned, and had access to phones and radio/television, respectively. On the contrary, only 18.6% of households had access to relatively advanced information communication technologies (ICTs) e.g. internet and Wi-Fi services. Despite the importance of radio and phones (in that order) as the most reliable means of communicating important messages with communities in the study area, the poor cellular and radio reception especially for those in the remote parts of the study area was raised as a notable concern requiring urgent action. The latter stems from the fact ICT, if put to good use, can be an important pillar to spur socio-economic development in that it can improve the quality of human life as it can be used as:

- A learning and education media;
- A platform for entertainment especially for juveniles; and
- A mass communication media/platform for:
    - Sharing targeted practical solutions and important issues such as health matters (e.g. announcements of mobile clinic visits), social services (e.g. announcements of social grant pay-outs); and
    - Important messages on safety and security issues.

In schools, ICT brings new possibilities to the classroom due to the very nature of it being innovative, and in that it has great potential for knowledge dissemination, effective learning and the development of more efficient education services. In view of these advantages, integrating ICT in teaching and learning would enable those

who are socially, mentally and physically disadvantaged to become more active in the mainstream learning process, while also empowering teachers in that process.

4.2 Prioritized needs of target communities

Target communities had very diverse opinions on development priorities – most of which discern from the perspective of service delivery and general destitution. Through diving deep into issues, it was apparent that the limited opportunities and stagnant micro-, meso- and macro-economic activities might have shaped societal dynamics and perspectives to development. Overall, there was strong convergence on the following top 3 broad categories of prioritized needs:

iv. Mega projects/investments with high employment creation potential – to be aligned to the relatively abundant and diverse local labour;
v. Well-equipped vocational centres for tailor-made trainings/skills enhancement, targeting unemployed youth, women or any interested community member(s); and
vi. Diversification and value addition initiatives for food security enhancement and poverty alleviation, targeting vulnerable groups and farmers.

Regarding proposed alternative income-generating and livelihood opportunities, the diverse backgrounds of target communities appear to have influenced their livelihood considerations. Similarly, local circumstances, general exposure and education level of respondents influenced responses. Figure 15 depict alternative income-generating opportunities as proposed by respondents.

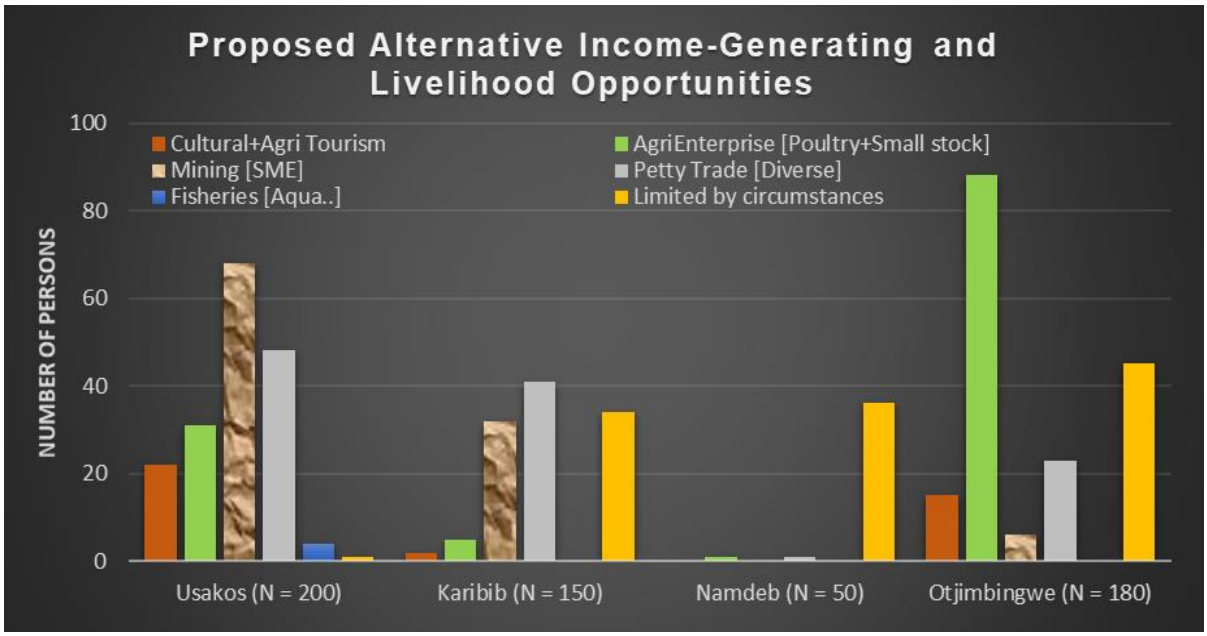

Figure 15: Proposed alternative income-generating and livelihood opportunities

Based on Figure 15, in **Usakos** majority (173/200 = 86.5%) of households knew what they venture in and/or what they intend to venture in, to earn extra income to sustain/diversify their livelihoods. Specifically:

- 68/200 of the respondents suggested small mining activities as a reliable means of earning their families extra income;
- 48/200 suggested petty trade (e.g. SMEs incl. vendors/kapana, daily needs shops, car wash, etc.);
- 31/200 suggested farming (mainly poultry farming and/or small livestock e.g. sheep and goats); and
- 22/200 proposed support in setting up cultural and agri-tourism ventures at strategic locations.

In **Karibib**, only 80/150 of the respondents knew what they venture in or intend to venture in to earn extra income, to sustain/diversify their livelihoods. Overall, 41/150 of the respondents suggested petty trade (as elaborated earlier); 32/150 suggested small mining activities, while 34/150 couldn't clearly mention/elaborate on alternative income opportunities they could think of.

The **Namdeb** community is rather unique in many respects – multiple deprivation; vulnerable; almost non-existent services; very limited livelihood options, etc. Apart from the few that are employed, majority are squatters surviving from "the grace of God" as they rarely where the next meal would come from. Thus, 36/50 (72%) of respondents indicated that even if they had ideas to generate income, their circumstances may not permit in that space is restricted, they do not have the means and skills with which to start any form of venture, and that for uncountable years, no one came forth to them to plant the seed of 'hope'.

In relation to other communities engaged, **Otjimbingwe** (being largely a rural or farming area) showed strong farming influence in highlighting alternative income or livelihood options. Thus, 88/180 (48.9%) of the respondents mentioned poultry and small stock farming as key options. As in Karibib and Namdeb cases, 45/180 of respondents said that their social circumstances greatly limits their aspirations.

A generalized list of issues – challenges and proposed solutions – are presented under Annex C.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the findings presented in section 3 and 4, Lepidico has ample entry points for effective engagement and aligning their social responsibility agenda with the needs of target communities. Some of the possibilities may include, but not limited to: developing and maintaining programs with long-term impact in the sphere of education, agricultural and food production, health care, sanitation, environmental sustainability, small-scale mining, and cultural tourism. These are aimed at creating opportunities (through e.g. employment, self-help projects and otherwise) and to strengthen local capacities (in the event that some actions are ongoing) for ensuring livelihood sustainability and poverty reduction among targeted communities – special focus on children, women and youth.

Of note, the study revealed that there is limited participation of community institutions in local government development initiatives, except for a few information meetings which LAs arrange occasionally and any form of participatory development seems non-existent. Below is a summary of issues, and suggested solutions and options:

Health, Education and Public Infrastructure:
The baseline study has revealed that education and health are the most prominent areas of service delivery and were often stated by respondents (household and key informants) as the most important. Another sub-sector that was frequently mentioned by the respondents (including LA leaders) includes basic infrastructure. This consists of public amenities such as parks and playgrounds, and the maintenance of road and sewerage infrastructure. In Otjimbingwe and Namdeb, health services, roads and potable water featured prominently in key issues requiring urgent attention. Lepidico, however, may wish to cautiously engage in these issues as it could be costly during these times where government and LAs seems to be struggling financially. Support for infrastructure development should, at the very least, be based on match-funding model and should be undertaken only if LAs and public, are willing to take upon itself the subsequent operational expenses of such ventures.

Social support programs that were identified included youth empowerment activities, and support to people living with disability and the elderly whereas Economic programs included support for entrepreneurship promotion, targeting small-miners and women and youth projects.

The respondents in the targeted communities, from an external point of view, exhibit a surprising level of acceptance and tolerance of the difficulties that they endure regarding provision and accessibility to services. The main issues that were raised regarding LAs, and on which Lepidico could capitalize included, but not limited to:

vii. economic aspects (unemployment, poverty);
viii. insufficient or lack of basic infrastructure (potable water, agro-marketing, irrigation, roads, ablution and sewage, electricity);
ix. amenities (sports and playgrounds, public green areas);
x. law and order (police station, vehicles);

xi. education (teachers, classrooms, equipment, transportation); and
xii. health (staffing, ambulance, mortuary, pharmacies).

Where possible, interventions aimed at addressing the above issues should be within the current professional and technical expertise of implementing partners. Successful implementation of development programs will serve to increase LAs experience, boost their confidence and provide a positive example to town residents and visitors alike. Issues of long-term maintenance and sustainability of the projects must be carefully considered.

Enhancing Food Security through targeted Agricultural Projects:
Deprivation (as influenced by hunger and poverty fuelled by high unemployment) cannot be overemphasized in the study area. Therefore, there is general consensus (from both local communities and LAs) that targeted investments in food production from well-conceived agricultural projects including, for example, gardening, poultry and small stock production would go a long way in reducing hunger and alleviating poverty while improving health status of particularly the vulnerable groups.

Partnership Engagement:
Private and public institutions in the target communities are eager to participate in various community projects with clear objectives and impact, provided planning is participatory and needs-oriented. Development and expansion of the roles of LA in the sphere of community development and service provision will require external funds (other than regular public capital or own resources) and, just as importantly, the expertise and experience that these institutions can provide. Lepidico engagement should be limited to those areas in which public funds are required in order to demonstrate the viability of a program intervention or where initial amounts would catalyse additional funds from the coffers of local sources. The sustainability of an investment and its multiplier effect must remain the main indicators for potential partnership and allocation decisions. Where applicable, Lepidico and local partners (particularly mining companies and local government) may wish to coordinate and create synergies to leverage on mutual interest especially on the types of activities being supported already by others, especially if the geographical project coverage is the same as those for interventions being proposed by Lepidico.

Capacity Building:
Noting overwhelming capacity challenges as inferred from perspectives and valuable inputs shared by respondents, there could be a need to extend technical assistance to LAs and CBOs. These could be in the form of training support devised to strengthen the implementation of economic and social development agenda of LAs (and CBOs), especially regarding medium-term strategic and integrated planning of the Council, maintaining sustainable and efficient public service delivery systems, and the establishment and operation of viable income generating enterprises (those requiring manageable seed funding). Capacity building initiatives/programs could target relevant office bearers (Councillors, professional staff, service technicians), and representatives of active community groups. Comprehensive training on

strategic municipal planning could include data collection methodologies, integration of conflicting sectoral interests, planning of infrastructure, zoning and master plan formulation, integrated services delivery, and participatory projects identification and formulation.

Local Economic Development:
Advancement of SMEs is one of the key priorities of the government. Although SME promotion is a vertically integrated intervention that require coordinated facilitation from central government, the private sector cooperation is vital, and several of the components can and should be implemented through social responsibility initiatives. Examples of such components include participation in the Equipment Aid Scheme (targeting those engaged in e.g. petty trading, knitting and small mining activities, etc.), capacity building and training activities, and infrastructure support programs such as trading markets and related facilities. Where applicable, targeted support to promotion of value addition initiatives for local products could be considered.

Local Authorities:
The general observation from engagement with LAs pointed out that the latter may want to adopt direct engagement with Lepidico particularly on the areas of support and partnership, based on a win-win model. In view of that, priority should be given to programs that provide immediate and tangible benefits to target communities. Introduction of revenue-raising techniques such as fees-for-service or the creation of income-generating enterprises should be actively promoted.

Waste disposal, renovating public parks, setting up of public benches (for leisure and relaxation) and garbage bins are all part of the simple and affordable actions through which Lepidico could engage LAs while developing and/or engaging in plans for bigger projects. The Otjimbingwe settlement office lack both the initial investment required to develop roads, water and sewerage systems, as well as the annual recurrent funds necessary to maintain and operate the existing ones. As such, support in those and other areas could be opportunities for effective engagement and support. In supporting the above, Lepidico would strengthen LAs in terms of their abilities to plan and manage socio-economic development, and to increase their influence and garner respect among relevant stakeholders and communities that rated appear to have lost trust in them.

Community-Based Organizations:
Various formal and informal CBOs e.g. women and youth groups, farmers and religious associations, small miners' groupings, etc. were mentioned as being present in the area. However, it transpired that most are not very active and some ceased existing owing to various reasons including capacity and purpose (of existing) issues, funding limitations, internal conflicts, etc. Noting the crucial roles which some of these organizations could play in e.g. local acceptance and/or promotion of Lepidico social development programs, there could be a need to strategize on how best to support/revive some of these local CBOs (following a proper mapping exercise).

Promises and Previous Engagement Between Lepidico and Stakeholders:
At community level, very few respondents are aware of the existence of Lepidico under this relatively new name. However, and most probably through informal engagement with Councillor and/or management of the LAs, and with the positive news of the possible re-opening of the mine making rounds; the local communities and stakeholders have high hopes for various opportunities once mine is re-opened.

ANNEXURES

Annex A – Primary Survey Tool (Questionnaire)

Ver…Code

1. Gender of respondent:
2. Gender of Head of household:
3. Age of the Head of household:

Male	1	Female	2	
Male	1	Female	2	

1	2	3	4	5	
<18	18-30	31-40	41-56	>56	

4. Marital Status of Head of Household:

1	2	3	4	5	
Married	Divorced	Widow	Widower	Single	

5. State number of persons in Household, by category:

Person	*No.*	
Babies(<6)		
Boys (6-17)		
Girls (6-17)		
Youth Male (18-35)		
Youth Female (18-35)		
Adult Male (36-60)		
Adult Female (36-60)		
Pensioners (>60)		

6. State number of orphans in the Household, by category:

Person	*No.*	
Babies <6 yrs		
Boys 6-17 yrs		
Girls 6-17 yrs		
Youth (18-35)		

7. State number of people living with disability (PLWD) in the Household:

Person	*No.*	
Male		
Female		

8. Indicate highest education level attained by Head of Household:

1	2	3	4	5	6	
None	Primary Sch.	Gr. 10	Gr. 12	Tertiary	Other:_____	

9. Indicate highest education level attained by unemployed youth living in your household:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Female	None	Primary	Gr. 10	Gr. 12	Tertiary	Other	
Male	None	Primary	Gr. 10	Gr. 12	Tertiary	Other	

10. Indicate the type of experience and skills available within members of your household:

Person	Carpentry	Mechanic	Roads	Domestic	Office	Bricklaying	Cleaning	Farming	Mining	Fishing	Trade	*Multi-options*
Adult Male (18-60)												
Adult Female (18-60)												
Pensioner>60												

11. Indicate(tick) location of school(s) currently being attended by members of your household:

Level	Karibib	Omaruru	Otjimbingwe	Usakos	Arandis	Swakopmund	Okombahe	Walvisbay	Windhoek	Other
Pre-Primary										
Primary										
Junior Secondary										
Senior Secondary										
Tertiary										
State reason(s) for school attendance outside you municipal area/district:										

12. Indicate current primary source of income of the Head of household:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
None	Farming	Own Business	State	Private	Domestic work	Small Mining	Tourism	Pension grant	Big mine e.g. Navachab	Other ____	

13. Indicate number of years involved in main source of income activity:

1	2	3	4	
<5years	5-10 years	11-20 years	>20 yrs	

14. Indicate current primary source of employment of other household member(s):

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
None	Farming	Own Business	State	Private	Domestic work	Small Mining	Tourism	Pension grant	Big mine e.g. Navachab	Others ____	*Multi-options*

15. What is the combined monthly income for the household?

1	2	3	4	5	6	
N$ 0 – 999	N$ 1,000 – 2,999	N$ 3,000 – 4,999	N$ 5,000 – 9,999	N$ 10,000 – 20,000	N$ >20,000	

15a. State (by sector) opportunities existing in your area that could earn your household additional income, once explored and supported:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tourism	Agriculture	Mining	Culture	Trade	Fisheries	Other
....	....	....	....	....	....	....

16. Indicate your household access to communication tools:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Telephone	Radio	Newspaper	TV	Mobile Phone	Internet	Other	*Multi-opt*

17. For important messages, which three communication channels do you find most reliable:

Newspaper	1	
TV	2	
Radio	3	
Non-governmental organisations	4	
Community based organisations	5	
Government Ministries	6	
Traditional Authorities	7	
Councillor	8	
Neighbours	9	
School/Church	10	
Public Notice boards	11	
Telephone	12	
Cell phone	13	
Other	14	

18. Do you own transportation?

Yes	1	No	2	

(a) If YES, state type(s):

Motor vehicle	1	
Bicycle	2	
Motorbike	3	
Tractor	4	
Donkey/ox cart	5	
Horse/Mule/Donkey	6	
Other (specify)	7	

19. Do you have access to electricity (or similar energy sources) in your household?

Yes	1	No	2	

(a) If YES, which one(s) is/are most used?

Grid electricity (e.g. ErongoRed)	1	
Solar energy	2	
Engine Power (diesel/paraffin)	3	
Gas	4	
Wood	5	
Dung Power (Biogas)	6	
Other (specify)_____	7	

20. Indicate main source(s) of drinking water for household:

Piped into dwelling	1
Public tap	2
Well/Spring	3
Pond/river/stream	4
Tanker	5
Borehole	6
Rain water	7
Other	8

21. Does your household own a toilet facility?

Yes	1	No	2

(a) If YES, indicate type of main toilet facility used:

Flush	1
Ventilated improved pit latrine	2
Unimproved pit latrine	3
Bush/Veld	4

22. What do you do to relax?

---

23. Mention the greatest strength of your community w.r.t. development projects:

.....

24. Mention the greatest weakness of your community w.r.t. development projects:

.....

25. Are you a member to a CBO / CBA?

Yes	1	No	2

[Examples Women group, Cooperative, League]

(a) If YES, state full name(s)
i).....
ii).....
iii).....

(b) If stated, list key activity(ies)
i).....
ii).....
iii).....

(c) Mention key benefits derived from your membership to the association(s) stated:
i).....
ii).....
iii).....

(d) What are the key obstacles of your association:	Funding	1
	Lack of cooperation	2
	Misunderstanding	3
	Transport	4

	Financial management	5	
	Lack of leadership quality	6	
	Inadequate resources (Vehicle, Tel, Office…)	7	
	High absenteeism at meetings	8	
	Other.....	9	

(e) Where relevant, rate your personal perception of relations between your MAIN Association (named above) and LEPIDICO Mine:						
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Unknown	None	

26. Mention key challenges (and solutions) within your community with reference to the following:

	Challenges	*Recommendations*
Youth		
Education		
Women		
Health		
Road network		
Water Supply		
Communication (ICT)		

27. Is any household member participating in any community development programme(s)?	1	2	
	Yes	No	
a) If YES, gender of participants	1	2	
	Male	Female	
b) If YES, state development programme(s)			

28. Indicate which of the following, if properly addressed, would improve the quality of your household life the most:

Water supply	1	
Sanitation	2	
Electricity	3	
Family planning services	4	
An improved house	5	
Improved access to schools	6	
Technical vocational training	7	
Other:	8	

29. What type of external support was extended to your household in the past 10 years?

	Type of support	Funding institution	Year
a	*None to date*	*None to date*	*N/A*
b			
c			
d			
e			

30. Indicate how the stated support affected your household:

Code	Not affected	Improved significantly	Improved somewhat	Negatively affected
a				
b				
c				
d				
e				

31. Does the household currently have access to:

	Formal financial savings	Informal financial savings		
Head				
Spouse				
Child(ren)/Step-child(ren)/Grandchild(ren)				
Uncle/Aunt				
Brother/Sister/Nephew/Niece				
Parent/Parent (in-law)				
Son/daughter (in-law)				
Other_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _				

32. Does any of the household members have access to a credit facility

Yes	1	No	2

a) If YES, indicate which:		
Relatives	1	
Friends	2	
Neighbours	3	
Informal (credit/savings) groups	4	
Unregistered money loaners	5	
Funeral societies	6	
NGO's	7	
Micro-lenders (Cash) loaners	8	
Cooperatives	9	
Bank	10	
Small business credit guarantee trust	11	
Other.....	12	

33. Of available health facilities in your area, what is your rating of each health service:

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Poor			
Hospital (public)						
Hospital (private)						
Clinic						
Traditional healer						
Community health worker						
Pharmacy						
NGO health service						
Private physician						
Other.....						

34. Kindly mention illness(es) that was the cause of any death in your household during the past 5 years.

(a).....	
(b).....	
(c).....	

35. What do you think could be done to improve the health situation in your area?
---

36. Did your household participate in community meeting/training held on:	1	2	
Health care	Yes	No	
HIV/Aids	Yes	No	
Water/Sanitation	Yes	No	
Crime prevention	Yes	No	
Alcohol abuse	Yes	No	
Environmental management	Yes	No	
Conflict Resolution/Social behaviour	Yes	No	
Trade/Business Development/Project Management	Yes	No	

37. What type of support did your household receive from LEPIDICO Mine?

---

38. Were you promised to benefit from LEPIDICO Mine in anyway? If so, mention promise(s.

---------- / Year promise made _ _ _ _ _
---------- / Year promise made _ _ _ _ _

END.

Annex B – List of key informants and stakeholders consulted

1. Honourable Melanie Ndjago
   Councillor: Karibib Constituency

2. Mr. Lesley Goroseb
   Chief Executive Officer: Karibib Town Council

3. Mr. Ivan Lompard
   Chief Executive Officer: Usakos Town Council

4. Mr. Nelson Meroro
   Deputy Director – Planning: Erongo Regional Council

5. Mr. Uahorekua Usurua
   Regional Head – Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination
   Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform

6. Ms. Saara Ilovu
   Manager: Local Economic Development
   Karibib Town Council

7. Mr. John Kauhanda
   Youth Activist

8. Ms. Clautted Gawases
   Secretary: Tsoaxudaman Traditional Authority

9. Chief Gottlieb Kahikopo
   OvaHerero Traditional Authority

10. Ms. Alma Karondewe
    Village elder/community leader – Okongava village

11. Mr. Jahanika I. Tjiueza
    Transport Operator

Annex C – Summary of Reported Key Challenges and Solutions of Targeted Communities

Issue	Challenges	Solutions
Youth	i. Absence of youth development centre ii. Widespread drugs and alcohol abuse iii. Lack of youth training opportunities and literacy programmes iv. Limited access to productive inputs and seed capital for youth business development v. High levels of unemployment among youth	i. Establish a youth development facility inclusive of recreational unit, counselling service and a library; ii. Enforce legal instruments governing drugs and alcohol use, and strengthen community awareness programmes; iii. Establish vocational training centres with skills development opportunities inclusive of apprentice scheme; iv. Support entrepreneurship development and mainstream youth seed capital scheme; v. Prioritize youth for employment and support youth self-employment
Education	i. Limited teaching and learning equipment, materials and teaching aids (laboratories, computers, study textbooks, lesson guides); ii. Poor performance by teachers with high failure rates; iii. Lack of adult learning programmes; iv. Expensive cost of schooling; and v. Absence of adequate hostel facilities	i. Support sourcing and upgrading of essential equipment and materials; ii. Provide continuous upgrade and development of teachers through short courses and scholarship opportunities; iii. Establish an adult learning resource centre and skills development programmes; iv. Provide free education; and v. Build new and improve conditions and service of existing hostels
Health	i. Increasing teenage pregnancies; ii. Absence of referral hospital and pharmacy, and limited number of appropriate ambulances services; iii. HIV/Aids pandemic; and iv. Limited physicians, nurses and pharmacists at public hospitals and clinics	i. Launch comprehensive family planning service and community awareness programmes; ii. Build new and expand health facilities with dedicated ambulances; iii. Expand HIV/Aids awareness beyond the national aids day, and widen access to prevention and treatment services; and iv. Deploy essential health workers in all available health facilities

Issue	Challenges	Solutions
Women	i. Limited business opportunities in high income projects (tenders); ii. Limited training and skills development opportunities; and iii. Women and child abuse.	i. Offer preference to women in public works and tenders, and provide capital for viable self-employment projects (sewing, bakery, catering); ii. Offer training opportunities in entrepreneurship, counselling, community development and project management; and iii. Establish women and child protection units and community policing to enforce zero tolerance to crimes against innocent women.
Road Network	i. High risk of road accidents due to absence of road signs, speed humps and traffic lights; ii. Poor state of gravel and tarred roads in towns and between towns; iii. Cleanliness along major streets; iv. Absence of street lighting in informal settlements; and v. Absence of road or pedestrian crossing bridges over major rivers.	i. Strengthen law enforcement with appropriate road signs; ii. Provide regular maintenance of road networks and upgrade were appropriate; iii. Provide dustbins along major streets, and strengthen cleaning services; iv. Install streetlights in settlements; and v. Build bridges and river crossings with drainage systems in streets.
Water and Sanitation	i. No water supply to household dwellings; ii. Expensive water rates; and iii. Limited maintenance of communal water points	i. Provide water to each household; ii. Consider water rates for the unemployed and elderly; and iii. Improve water infrastructure maintenance with dedicated staffing
Communication	i. Absence of communication channels and means between service providers and inhabitants; and ii. Limited communication network out of towns (rural areas).	i. Set-up community out-reach programmes for better interaction with residents; and ii. Expand cellular and radio networks to rural areas.

END OF REPORT.