

MEDIA RELEASE

(NSA launches Marginalised Communities report based on the 2023 Census Data)

15 July 2026

NSA Head Office

For immediate release

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Launch of the Marginalised Communities Report Based on the 2023 Population and Housing Data

Wednesday, 15 July 2026

1. The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), today 15 July 2026 has officially released the detailed profiling report of designated marginalised communities in Namibia. The comprehensive report was compiled utilizing data from 2023 Population and Housing Census
2. The production of this specific demographic profile follows a formal, strategic request from the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, through its division of Marginalised Communities.
3. In the 2023 census, marginalised communities were defined with reference to specific ethnic groups, namely the San, Ovaturue/ Ovatwa, and Ovatjimba. These groups have historically experienced social, economic, and spatial exclusion relative to the broader population, largely because of long standing structural,

historical, and geographic factors. Marginalisation in this context is understood as an ethnic group-based condition rather than an individual characteristic.

4. The identification of these marginalised communities is based on self-reported ethnic affiliation as recorded in the 2023 Population and Housing Census. The classification follows official census ethnic categories and is consistent with national definition of marginalised communities as per the Ministry of Gender Equality and Social Welfare.

5. This report provides a detailed, granular look at the demographic, social, and economic realities of Namibia's most vulnerable populations, specifically focusing on the San, Ovaherero, and Ovambo communities. While the 2023 Census Main Report provided a macro-level overview of the nation, this profile ensures that no community remains invisible in national development planning.

1. 6. Results

6.1 Size and Distribution of the Marginalised Population

According to the report findings, the total recorded population of marginalised communities in Namibia stands at **75 569** representing **2.5 percent** of the total Namibian population.

The demographic data reveals that:

- **Gender Distribution:** Females account for **50.7 percent** of the population, while males make up **49.3 percent**.

- **A young population:** Children aged 0–17 years make up **48.2 Percent** of these communities, highlighting a massive demand for future-focused youth and child development interventions.
- **Geographic Distribution:** The data confirms that the highest concentration of marginalised communities is situated in the **Otjozondjupa** region, which hosts **31.3 percent** of the total marginalised population, followed by **Omaheke** at **23.1 percent**.
- **Household Size:** The average household size within these communities is **4.6** persons.

6.2 Education and Literacy

The report notes that the literacy rate among marginalised communities stands at **54.8 percent** indicating a critical area for targeted literacy programs.

On the school-aged demographics:

- The school enrolment rate for children aged 6–24 years is currently at **53.6 percent**.
- About **30.9 percent** of the population aged 6 years and above have never attended school.
- For those who are no longer attending school, only **9.1 percent** managed to complete secondary education or higher.

6.3 The economic activities

Building a fair and hopeful economic future requires stable labour market attachment. The 2023 Census data reveals that the Labor Force Participation Rate among marginalised aged 15 years and above is **37.2 percent**

- Within this economically active labour force, the employment rate is **59.4 percent**, leaving an unemployment rate of **40.6 percent**

6.4 The Households

- a. As of September 2023, there were 14,137 private households across the country headed by a marginalised person. Among them 4,843 were in urban areas, and 9,294 were in rural areas.
- b. The data shows that many households, headed by a person from marginalised communities' 42.4 percent, rely on salaries and wages as their primary source of livelihood, and 15.6 percent of households reported old age pension as main income source.

6.5 Basic Utilities

- **Safe Drinking Water:** **87.8 percent** of households have access to safe source of water for drinking.
- **Sanitation:** A significant **68.4 percent** of households in these communities' report having no toilet facilities, relying primarily on open defecation (bush).

- **Energy for Lighting:** Only **32.4 percent** of households uses electricity for lighting, with about **30.1 percent** battery lamps or torch.

The data only carries power when it is actively utilized. In line with the Statistics Act No. 9 of 2011, the NSA guarantees absolute confidentiality for all individual census participants, while ensuring the aggregated final findings are widely disseminated.

The NSA strongly urges other line ministries, regional councils, local authorities, academic researchers, and development partners to actively download and unpack this report. It serves as a verified source of data to ensure national resource allocation is evidence-based and directly targeted to our most vulnerable citizens

For more information and updates on this and other reports from the Census Data, please visit our official website at www.nsa.org.na or contact our office at 061 431 3200 or email 2023-census@nsa.org.na

I thank you



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