

# Preface

The Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES 2003/2004) internationally known as the Budget Survey, is the second of its kind to have been conducted in independent Namibia after the NHIES 1993/1994. Budget surveys are specialized statistical frameworks for monitoring and evaluation of socioeconomic policy performances on the one hand and on the other instruments for updating statistical infrastructure such as providing the basis for the re-basing of both National Accounts and the Consumer Price Index (CPI). According to the international best practices budget surveys should be undertaken at least once in five years. The purpose for this recommended frequency is to ensure the provision of relevant data timely to policy makers. However, budget surveys are quite costly due to their methodological requirement, which dictate that the data collection phase should cover a full calendar year. The expenditure on NHIES 2003/2004 up to date is in the range of Forty Million Namibian Dollars (N\$ 40 million).

The objectives of NHIES 2003/2004 are obviously inter-alia to provide data for NDP2 terminal review, benchmark for NDP3 and to provide data for the assessment of various policies on poverty and income inequalities reduction.

The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) has applied the latest available techniques in the processing of NHIES data mindful of burning policy demands for this information. This report presents preliminary findings of the survey based on the selection of key indicators on incomes and expenditures at National, Regional and Household levels as well as by rural/urban breakdowns. The purpose of this report is to present users with some synopsis of the major findings of the survey as an interim measure pending the production of the final report planned for release in July 2006.

In as much as chapter 1 and 2 of the preliminary report give useful insights on how the NHIES was conducted, however substitutive findings of the survey are presented starting from chapter 3 onwards. As staff are busy preparing the final report, efforts are underway at the same time to produce an NHIES anonymized data set, which will allow various researchers/planners access to this data to do further analysis in areas of interest.

Finally, the preliminary results of this survey generally corroborates the findings of the NHIES 1993/1994, DHS and the 2001 Population Census to the mixed extent that the social economic conditions of the country are improving, in some areas drastically while at the same time inequalities bear a tendency to persist, albeit the GINI-coefficient has shown a fall from 0.7 to 0.6 in this survey.

The National Planning Commission would like to thank the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and other development partners for their technical and financial support to this survey. In the same vein I would like to thank the respondent households, general government and public, the media and indeed the staff of the CBS who made this survey a resounding success.

Helmuth K. Angula  
Director-General  
National Planning Commission

Windhoek March 2006