Subject: Namibia; Namibia BIG Basic Income Pilot
At BIGA we would prefer that Governments rather than NGOs funded a Basic Income. The Basic Income Guarantee organisation of Namibia has for some years attempted to convince the Namibian Government to fund a Basic Income guarantee for all citizens. So far the government has refused. So the BIG organisation has decided to run a pilot program in one province as a demonstration project. A somewhat similar project was run by the Brotherhood of Saint Laurence in Melbourne in the late 1970s (see Liffman, M. (1978). *Power for the Poor*. George Allen & Unwin, Sydney).

Jenni Mays and I met the Rev. Haarmann and Bishop Dr. Z. Kameeta at the Cape Town Basic Income Conference in Dec 2006. They seem very committed people.

The information below was extracted from the *Basic Income Earth Network Newsletter* Sept 2007.
Please note that a $100 Namibian equals $13 US for 24 months this is about $312 US or about $400 Australian.
John Tomlinson

**Editors Note:** John Tomlinson has sent off his A$400 donation to the appropriate BIG Namibia First National Bank without complication!!!

**NAMIBIA:** FUNDRAISING FOR BASIC INCOME PILOT PROJECT

The Basic Income Grant Coalition in Namibia is a broad-based civil society coalition, which was formed in April 2005 to advocate for the implementation of a Basic Income Grant (BIG) in Namibia to fight poverty and foster economic development. At the end of 2006, the understanding in the BIG Coalition grew that the BIG campaign needs to be taken a step further by starting a pilot project of the BIG in Namibia. The background is that a pilot project might be able to concretely show that a BIG can work and will indeed have the predicted positive effects on poverty alleviation and economic development.

The BIG Coalition has started to implement the BIG pilot project in Otjivero/Omitara, a small village in the East of Namibia. On July 31st 2007, a team of the BIG Coalition registered 1005 people in this small village to receive a grant of N$100,- (Euro 12,-) per person per month for two years starting in January 2008.

On August 6th 2007, Bishop Dr. Z. Kameeta officially launched the BIG FUND in order to start fundraising for the pilot project, which entirely depends on contributions by Namibians and the international community. The first person who responded to the call for donations was Honourable Dr. Hage Geingob, the first Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia and current Member of Parliament. The payment of the grant including the administration requires an amount N$ 3 million (~ Euro 315,000) over the period of the two years. The BIG Coalition appeals to proponents of the idea of a BIG to also support the BIG pilot project financially, by either giving a once-off donation or by a monthly contribution for one or two or three grants for the 24 months period. (e.g. N$ 100 per month for 24 months: N$ 2,400)

For more information on the BIG pilot project and the BIG Coalition, see the webpage of the BIG Coalition: [http://www.bignam.org](http://www.bignam.org) or write to web@bignam.org

The proposal for a Basic Income Grant in Namibia was made in 2002 by the Namibian Tax Consortium (NAMTAX), a government appointed commission. The
consortium made the proposal for a Basic Income Grant in light of the high poverty levels and the unequal distribution of income (income inequality) in Namibia. The current debate about a Basic Income Grant in Namibia is based on the following proposal: A monthly cash grant of not less than N$100 (~13 US$) should be paid to every Namibian citizen as a citizen's right. Every Namibian would receive such a grant until pension age from where onwards he/she is eligible to the existing universal State Old Age Pension of N$370. The money of people not in need or not in poverty would be recuperated through adjustments in the tax system.

Spearheaded by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN), this proposal was taken up the Namibian civil society and has evolved into the BIG Coalition.

The Basic Income Grant campaign, which aims at achieving the introduction of a Basic Income Grant in Namibia, is to date the biggest civil society project united in fighting poverty and work towards economic empowerment in Namibia. In April 2005, a broad-based civil society coalition consisting of the Council of Churches, the umbrella body of the NGOs (NANGOF), the umbrella body of the AIDS organisations (NANASO), the Union Federation (NUNW), the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) and the Labour Resource and Research Institute (LaRRI) have formed a coalition to advocate the implementation of the BIG in Namibia. The Secretariat of the Coalition is hosted by Desk for Social Development (ELCRN), which is responsible for the day-to-day running of the campaign. The BIG Coalition has now decided to implement a pilot project for the BIG in Namibia (see following web pages).

If you would like to support the BIG pilot project financially, please fill in the following pledge form and banking details

pdf Pledge form

NANGOF
Namibia NGO Forum
Basic Income Grant Coalition
Secretariat: c/o Desk for Social Development (ELCRN) - .. 5069 Windhoek - .. +264 (61) 235466 - .. +264 (61) 235499 - E-mail: cd.haarmann@gmx.net

Pledge Form
for the Basic Income Grant Pilot Project
I hereby would like to support the Basic Income Grant Pilot Project financially.
Surname: __________________________
First Name: __________________________ Title: ______________
Contact details: __________________________________________
________________________________________________
Phone: ________________________________________________
Fax: ________________________________________________
Email: ________________________________________________
I pledge to pay: .. monthly for 24 months, starting from September 2007 amount in N$ / € ___________ per month
.. once off the amount of N$ / € ___________
Signature: __________________________ Date: ___________
Please email or fax the completed form back to us (see addresses above) in order for
Information and account details
BIG Pilot Project in Omitara

The BIG pilot project aims to evaluate the impact of a universal income grant on poverty and economic development. The idea is to tackle poverty head on by providing income security and by boosting economic development. A Basic Income Grant is built on the principles of redistribution and the reduction of high inequality. The BIG pilot project is implemented in Omitara / Otjivero for people living in this area and who have been registered by the BIG Coalition on July 31st 2007. For a period of two years a grant of N$100 per person per month is paid there to everybody below the age of 60 years. The first payment will start in December 2007 or January 2008.

The funding of the pilot project in Omitara relies on funding from passionate people to support the idea and who are willing to share their resources for the improvement of the living conditions of all Namibians.

If you would like to support this project financially and want to make it a success, please transfer your contribution to the following account:

Namibian account:
Account name: ELCRN - BIG Namibia
Name of Bank: First National Bank
Account number: 62146088457
Branch number: 281972
Branch name: Windhoek Commercial Suite

All donations all welcome! You can give a once-off donation or you can also instruct your bank to make a debit-order to the project account for e.g. N$100,- / € 12,- for 24 months in order to finance the grant of one (or two, or three…) persons in Omitara.
THANK YOU!