

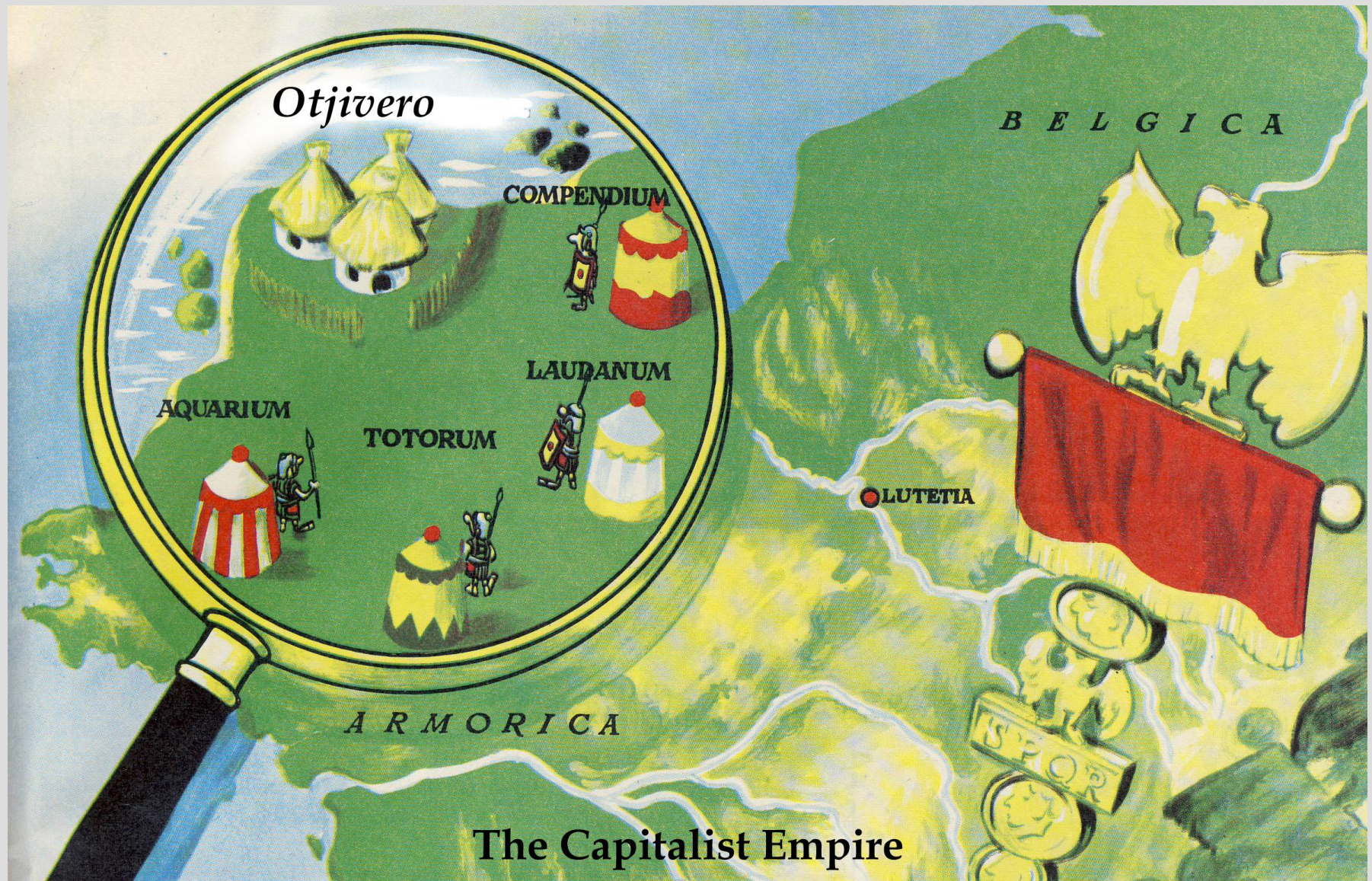
Turning money upside down



Lessons and challenges of the BIG in Namibia

Rev. Dr. Dirk Haarmann

Small Project – BIG attention



Life before BIG



I and my three children depend on my unemployed parents for food and accommodation. Sometimes I wish I was dead because I cannot stand this type of life anymore. I am supposed to provide and protect my children and parents but I am failing to do that. (Willemmina Gawises)

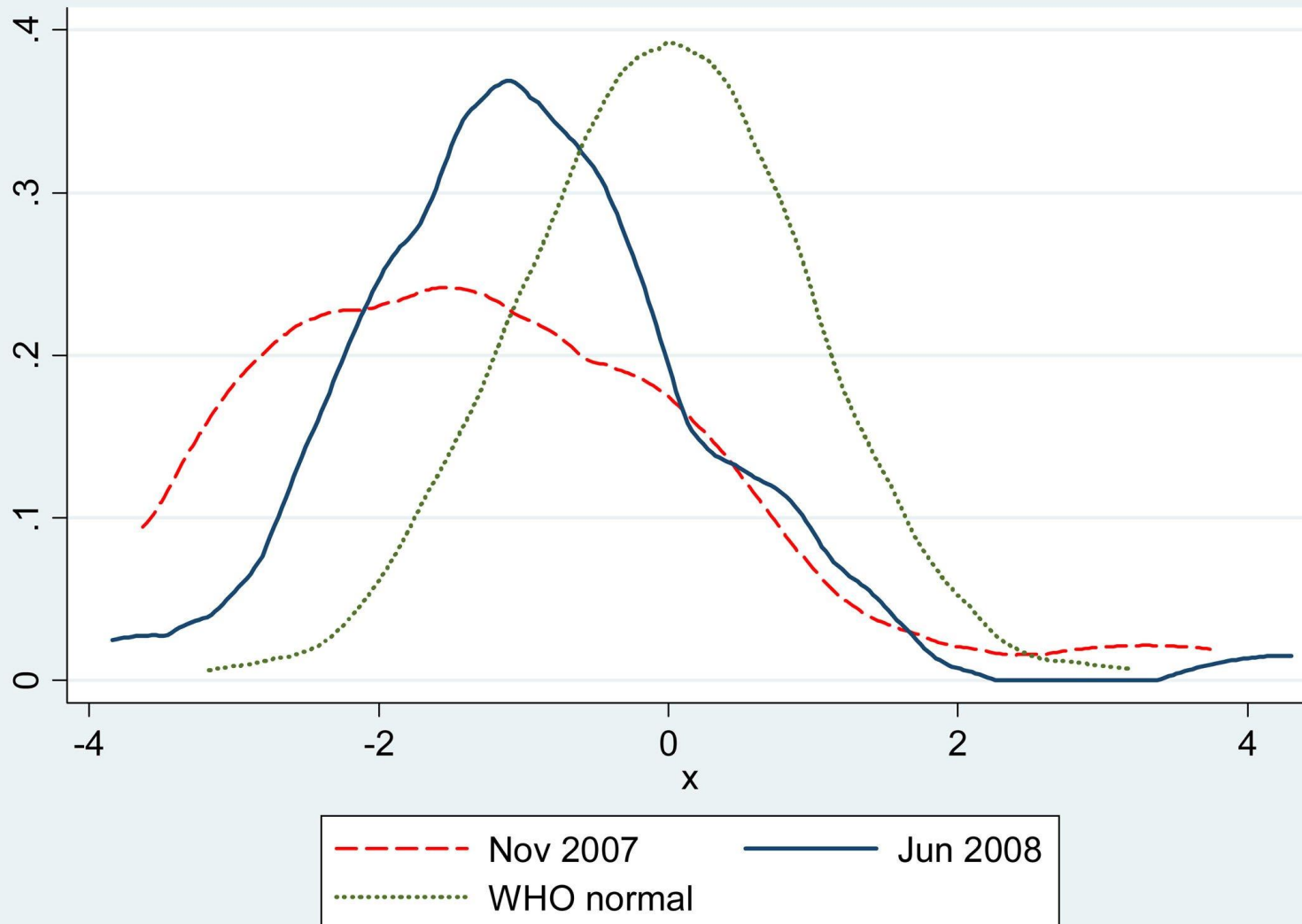
Life before BIG



Some days we don't have anything (to eat) and we just have to go and sleep and get up again without eating. We are really hungry. (Emilia Garises)



Weight for age *children under 5 years*



- WHO normal distribution
- Nov 07 - 42% malnourished
- After 6 months of BIG reduced to 17%





*After the introduction of the BIG I started my business. I bake traditional bread every day. I bake 100 rolls per day and sell each for N\$1 (one dollar). I sell all the rolls in a day and a profit of about N\$400 (four hundred dollars) per month. My business is good and I believe that it will grow. (...). I run it with the help of my children.
(Frieda Nembwaya)*

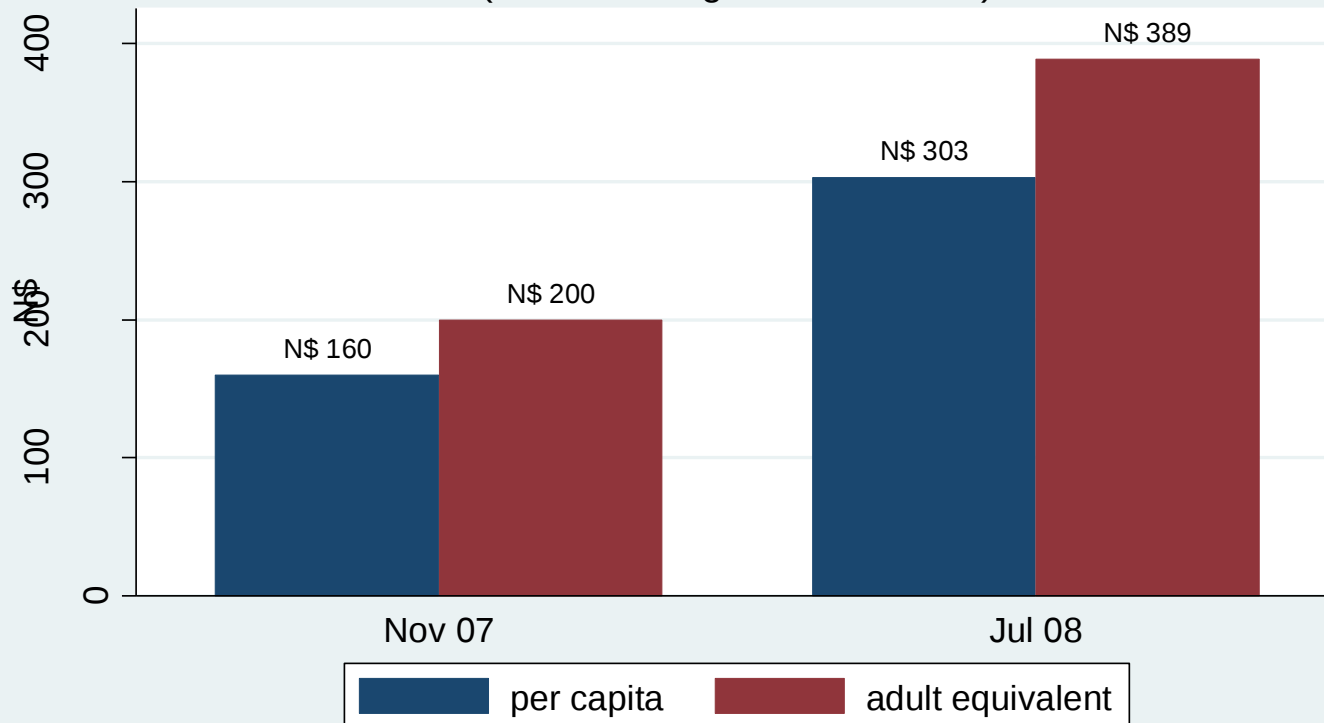




Income levels and multiplier effects



Average total monthly income in N\$
(effects of migration excluded)



Source: DfSD & LaRRi Survey Jul 2008
BIG Pilot Project Study

- Average income (standardized per adult) increased from N\$ 200 to N\$ 389
- BIG N\$ 100 boosted through economies of scale
- On average the people were able to realize an increase in their incomes beyond the value of the BIG
- A considerable amount of the BIG money stays in the local community, boosting local economic activity





Lessons

- No need for more experiments – BIG needs national / international implementation
- Reckon with interventions and opposition defending vested interests
- Organisation and practice needs to be led by principals of solidarity, anti-hierarchical, people-centred, voluntarism, transparency - compare BI principles

Why is there no national BIG in Namibia today?

International Organisations

- IMF
- UNDP
- BftW
- German Embassy in Namibia

Namibian Government

- Initial claim of ownership - “Cabinet tax commission's proposal”
- Turned against BIG after IMF intervention
- Pilot challenged and still challenges government
- BIG Chairperson became first Minister for Poverty Alleviation