



UNITED
NATIONS
NAMIBIA



NEWSLETTER

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United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) 2019-2030

The UNPAF, between the United Nations (UN) and the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN), outlines the joint support of UN agencies to the realisation of the country's National Development Plan (NDP 5) and Vision 2030. Areas of cooperation are defined through pillars and outcomes aligned to NDP 5 and reflect a strong emphasis on the principle of 'Leave No One Behind.'

Pillars and Outcomes:



Economic Progression

By 2023, institutions implement policies for inclusive development and poverty reduction for vulnerable groups.



Social Transformation

By 2023, vulnerable women, children, adolescents and young people in Namibia have access to and utilise quality integrated health care and nutrition services - Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

By 2030, vulnerable children and young people in Namibia have equitable access to inclusive quality education and lifelong learning.

By 2023, vulnerable women and children are empowered and protected against violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

By 2023, the most vulnerable children, persons living with disabilities, marginalised communities, and poor utilise quality, integrated social protection services.



Environmental Sustainability

By 2023, vulnerable populations in disaster prone areas and biodiversity sensitive areas are resilient to shocks and climate change effects and benefits from natural resources management.



Good Governance

By 2023, government institutions at national and regional level are accountable and transparent, engaging citizens in participatory decision-making processes.

Cross - Cutting Themes:

- Youth
- Disaster risk management
- HIV
- Gender
- Migration
- Culture



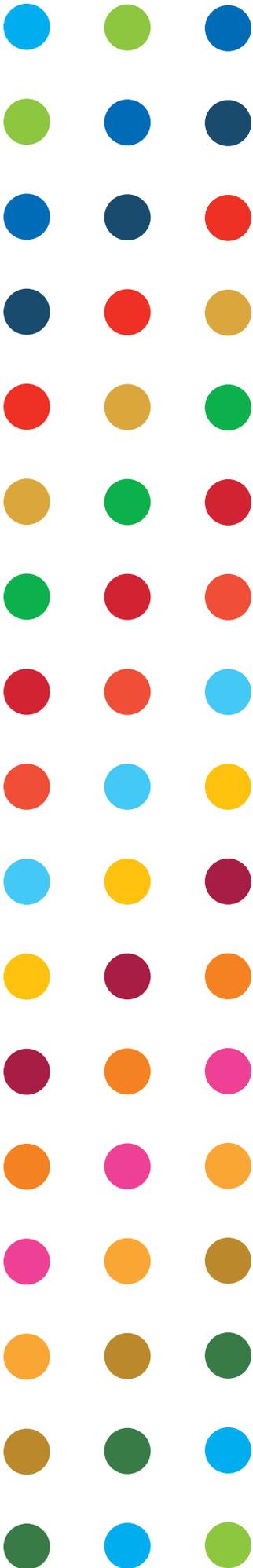


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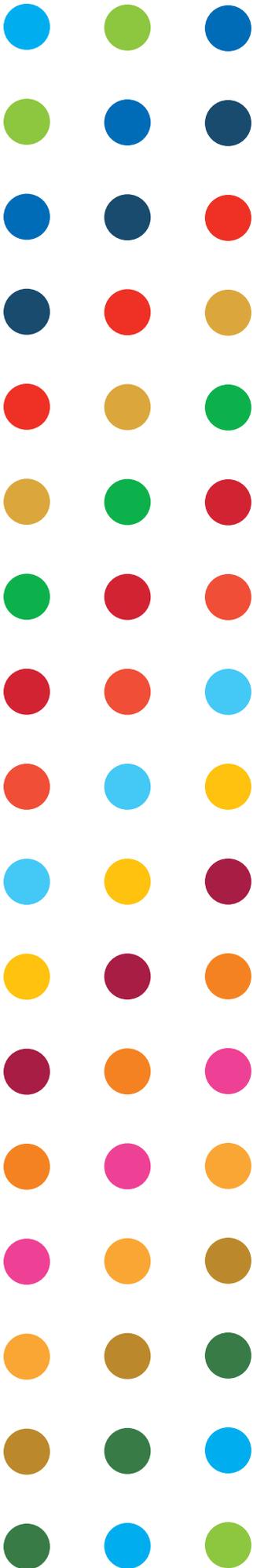


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HIGHLIGHTS



Mr. Edward Ndopu, UN Secretary-General Advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the UN Namibia staff members © UNICEF

NDOPU MEETS UN STAFF

UNICEF - 23 AUGUST, WINDHOEK

UN Namibia staff were inspired by Mr. Edward Ndopu, UN Secretary-General Advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during a Town Hall meeting on 23 August at the UN House.

Edward Ndopu was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy at age 2 and given only five years to live, he is currently 29 years old and says: "I am a living manifestation of possibility!" Ndopu is the first African person with a disability to graduate from the University of Oxford and holds a master's degree in public policy.

He shared his vision with UN Namibia staff to re-imagine access for people with disabilities beyond the built environment, referring to the ramp and braille for example, but called for access to joy, belonging, hope and possibility.

Ndopu called for the need for policy makers and institutions to rethink current methodologies, "we need a new canvas on which to paint a new vision and chart a new trajectory for society." He highlighted the urgent need to open possibilities for people and especially young people living with disabilities.

Ndopu is preparing for his address to the UN General Assembly next year, as the first wheel-chair user in Space, "It will be my love letter to the world about the enduring power of the human spirit." Through this address, Edward hopes to push for concerted action around disability justice and the Sustainable Development Goals.

He reminded UN Namibia staff to think about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals as a holistic blueprint for creating the world we want to see for humanity. He noted that "the work we do to advance equality, justice, and access to the basic building blocks of life are in service of a vision bigger than ourselves."

He told UN staff to believe in the forces of possibility, "As we embark on the universal agenda, let's believe in the forces of the impossible to achieve the impossible," he said.

Edward Ndopu quotes:



"It always seems impossible until its done."

"A positive attitude can only take you so far, we need decision makers and institutions to meet us halfway."

"The SDGs is a universal agenda – it's for everybody."



Dr. Alti Zwandor and Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah © UNAIDS

DR. ALTI ZWANDOR, NEW UNAIDS COUNTRY DIRECTOR TO NAMIBIA TAKES UP OFFICE

UNAIDS - 09 SEPTEMBER, WINDHOEK

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation and Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, welcomed Dr. Alti Zwandor as the newly appointed UNAIDS Country Director to Namibia on Monday, 9 September 2019.

During the visit, Minister Nandi-Ndaitwah and Dr. Zwandor discussed their mutual support and partnership towards the AIDS response, highlighting the importance of removing complacency on HIV and strengthening messaging on combination prevention interventions such as voluntary male circumcision and condom use. Dr. Zwandor stated “I am honoured to be in Namibia and my focus will remain on building, fostering and maintaining strategic partnerships in contributing to the successful HIV response towards Ending AIDS.”

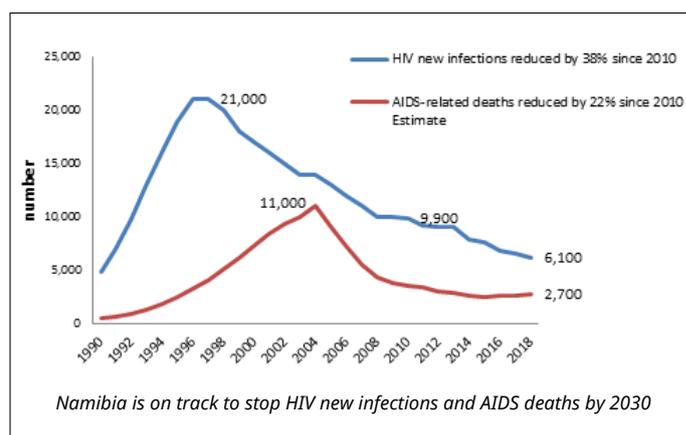
Alti Zwandor is a Public Health Specialist with over 36 years public health and development work experience in developing settings in Western, Eastern and Southern Africa.

A national of Nigeria, Alti started her development work in the early 1980s with the Plateau State Ministry of Health in Nigeria where she was clinician in government and mission hospitals. Alti joined UNAIDS in 2002 and has held various positions such as the UNAIDS Country Director for Lesotho; Programme and Institutional Development Adviser UNAIDS South Africa, Senior Programme Adviser UNAIDS Ethiopia, and National Programme Adviser UNAIDS Nigeria. During this period, she brokered constructive relationships with government and non-state actors such as civil society, faith-based, and private sector. The establishment of these relationships created opportunities for UNAIDS to support inclusive complex policy dialogues and facilitated successful high-level political engagement by UNAIDS with Government leadership.

Alti has a Master’s degree in Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine – United Kingdom; and Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree from University of Jos, Nigeria.

Dr. Alti Zwandor Quote:

“I am honoured to be in Namibia and my focus will remain on building, fostering and maintaining strategic partnerships in contributing to the successful HIV response towards Ending AIDS.”





A Member of the Society for Family Health, selling crafts and clothing @UNHCR

UN PARTICIPATES IN ADS BAZAAR

UNHCR - 28 SEPTEMBER, WINDHOEK

The Association for Diplomatic Spouses (ADS) in collaboration with Franco Namibia Cultural Centre (FNCC) hosted their annual Bazaar on 28 September celebrating international cuisine, culture and craft. Proceeds from the bazaar were designated toward the empowerment of young woman.

UN Namibia participated through the Society for Family Health, a UNHCR supported project with a stall showcasing Eastern and West African cuisine, Congolese traditional food, wood carvings and crafts as well as cosmetic products.

UN Namibia staff read the story 'Frieda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the young children and their parents at the bazaar. Attendees received Frieda story books as well as UN branded water bottles. The UN staff drew attention to Agenda 2030, and the 'ActNow bot' with everyday actions for each person to play their part in achieving the SDGs. The lesson from Frieda is "we can all contribute to change the world."



Children attentively listen to the story during the bazaar @UN Namibia



Development partners convened for the 5th instalment of the Development Partners Forum (DPF) © UN Namibia

PARTNERSHIPS CAN ACCELERATE ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SDGS

UNFPA - 10 OCTOBER, WINDHOEK

The Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) through the National Planning Commission (NPC) together with the United Nations (UN) in Namibia convened the 5th instalment of the Development Partners Forum (DPF) at the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) on 10 October.

The forum brought together leaders from government ministries, international organisations and diplomatic missions in an effort to galvanize development efforts and build on the impetus needed to strengthen systems and processes to address socio economic challenges and tackle critical issues faced by the people of Namibia.

Hon. Obeth M. Kandjoze, Minister of Economic Planning and Director General of the NPC highlighted, “This gathering is organized much in accordance with the principles of the Paris Declaration to which Namibia is a signatory since 2007, with the objective of ensuring Coordination of Development Partners to promote synergy in the implementation of mechanisms aimed at ensuring the effectiveness of development endeavours by all stakeholders. To such an extent that all efforts contributes to the achievements of our National Development Plans (NDPs) currently NDP5 and while ultimately will feed into both Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Deliberations during the forum included the ongoing and pressing drought emergency, the outcome of the economic summit, feedback from the Hon. Obeth Kandjoze, Minister of Economic Planning and Director General of the National Planning Commission, regarding his regional visits and the UN General Assembly, as well as progress on National Development Plan (NDP5) implementation and the UN Reform.

Speaking on behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator a.i., Ms. Dennia Gayle, UNFPA Representative emphasised the importance of Sustainable Development Goal number 17, underlining the fact that “Broad partnerships between the Government, international organisations, civil society, academia and individuals offer a great and untapped potential for accelerated achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the national development plans.”

She further added, “Today is an excellent opportunity for us to exchange ideas on ongoing and planned support and to explore how to do more and to ‘Harambee’ – pull together to help Namibia achieve its goals and targets as set out in the NDP 5” she concluded.

During their deliberations, the Development Partners Forum cemented their ongoing commitment for greater urgency and renewed focus for collective efforts in delivering results for those left furthest behind.

The forum highlighted:

- Drought and Relief Programme
- Outcome of Economic Summit
- Minister’s regional visit report UN GA
- NDP 5 implementation



Hon. Piet van der Walt, Deputy Minister of Economic Planning during his address to members of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) © UN Namibia

1st JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE MEET IN WINDHOEK

WHO - 11 OCTOBER, WINDHOEK

The first Joint Steering Committee meeting under the new UN Partnership framework for Namibia took place on 11 October at the United Nations House in Windhoek, chaired by the UN's Dr. Charles Sagoe Moses, WHO Representative and co-chaired by Hon. Piet van der Walt, Deputy Minister of Economic Planning.

The Joint Steering Committee is the highest governance structure for the implementation of the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) 2019 – 2023 in Namibia. The committee provides strategic direction ensuring harmonisation with national development priorities, progress review, resource mobilisation as well as fostering and sustaining partnerships.

Hon. Piet van der Walt noted the strong alignment of the UNPAF to the National Development Plan (NDP) 5 during his address. He said, "In this regard, the UN Development System's interventions as packaged into the current UNPAF (2019-2023), corresponds poignantly to our current 5th National Development Plan (NDP 5), which has identified four Pillars namely; Economic Progression, Social Transformation, Environmental Sustainability and Good Governance. This interface symbolises the significant value that the United Nations in Namibia places on supporting our Nation's aspirations while also committing its interventions to what the Government has identified as a priority. "

The Joint Steering Committee meeting provided a platform to take stock of progress on the NDP 5, presented by the National Planning Commission. Furthermore, the joint workplans of the UNPAF pillars for Economic Progression, Social Transformation, Environmental Sustainability and Good Governance was discussed at length. The Pillar

Chairpersons from the UN also presented an overview of progress on UNPAF implementation from January to October 2019.

The meeting participants deliberated on mutual challenges, identified coordination gaps, and deliberated on creating greater synergies between stakeholders. There was a call for evidence gathering and data management systems as well as strengthening governance and capacity. They also reflected on key lessons learnt and plans for the next Joint Steering Committee meeting to be held in 2020.

The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Namibia expressed gratitude to all members of the UNPAF working groups as well as partners on the ground who deliver the programmes and achieve results for people. It is only through these broad partnerships that the UN can achieve sustainable and transformative change in society.

Did you know?

UNPAF is a strategic framework that outlines UN Namibia's support to the GRN toward the realisation of the country's Vision 2030 and the implementation of the fifth National Development Plan (NDP5), the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP), the Blue Print on Wealth Redistribution and Poverty Eradication, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as international treaties and conventions.

PHOTO STORIES



Academic partners having discussions during the UNDP-Academia planning meeting to operationalise Memorandum of Understandings signed with institutions of higher learning for 2020 © UNDP



Ms. Martha Naanda, Head of Programmes at UNDP facilitating a session at the Energy policies and implementation of off-grid energy systems workshop



Students holding up signage, booklets and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) squares © UNDP



UNAM students obtaining information at the UNDP Namibia stand © UNDP



The UNDP Namibia Resident Representative, Ms. Alka Bhatia and the NUST Acting Vice Chancellor, Mr. Morne Du Toit signed the MoU and expressed excitement to begin working on achieving the goals set out in the MoU. © UNDP



The Japanese Government in partnership with UNDP Namibia are working to improve interventions on Hepatitis E, which is expected to reach approximately 120 000 people © UNDP



The Namibia statistics agency (NSA) hosted a 'Leave No One Behind' National standard Validation workshop © UNDP



Ms. Alka Bhatia, UNDP Namibia Resident Representative delivering her remarks at the Validation workshop © UNDP





ECONOMIC PROGRESSION



**Economic
Progression**

Seated from left, Mayor of Windhoek Councillor Mueseke Kazapua; Dr. Julitta Onabanjo, UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Director; Mrs. Monica Geingos, First Lady of the Republic of Namibia and Ms Dennia gayle, UNFPA Namibia Representative. | Standing from left: Dr. Bernard Valentin, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Health, Seychelles; Hon. Pieter van der Walt, Deputy Minister of Economic Planning; Gogontlejang Phaladi, youth activist and Ms. Boemo Segkoma, SADC Parliamentary Forum Secretary General. © UNFPA

STRONG POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY ARE FUNDAMENTAL FOR BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ALL PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

UNFPA - 11 SEPTEMBER, WINDHOEK

An in-depth focus on High and Upper Middle-Income Countries in Southern Africa

How can Upper Middle-Income Countries in Southern Africa Achieve a Sustainable Future in the 21st Century? This thought-provoking question underpinned the discussions at the Windhoek Country Club Resort on 11 September, during the 'What's Changed in Middle Income Countries (MICs)?' dialogue, which focused on people-centered development in Upper Middle-Income Countries (UMICs) in Southern Africa, particularly the quality of life and well-being of women and young people.

Themed 'A changing and diverse sustainable development landscape: Impact on sexual and reproductive health and rights outcomes for women and youth in Southern Africa', the dialogue led to renewed commitments as governments, development partners, academia, private sector, civil society representatives and young people charted a way forward to accelerate the building of an inclusive and sustainable future for all people and the planet.

This is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, the aspirations of the African Union Agenda 2063, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan, and respective National Visions and Development Plans.

The 'Multi-Country What's Changed Dialogue' organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) celebrated the huge gains made in the respective countries (Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles and South Africa) and in the SADC region since 1994, and underscored the persistent and deepening inequalities. The dialogue was enriched by insights on drivers and catalysts for change in the countries. These included the role of Universal Health Coverage and integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the countries, the need to address deepening inequalities alongside economic growth, and scale up sustainable financing required to close remaining gaps, as well as critical leadership at all levels to make further progress a reality.

The dialogue reaffirmed collective intentions of the MICs in Southern Africa to advance people centered development by harnessing the potential of the demographic dividend and leveraging new emerging markets and smart digital economies.

The participants, representing government, civil society organizations (CSOs), parliamentarians, academia, the private sector, UN system, young people and marginalized groups – made commitments to fulfil the Promise of Cairo for all irrespective of age, gender, income status, geographic location or physical ability.

The Multi-Country What's Changed Dialogue closed with a strong set of indicative commitments by countries amplified by the voices of young people, who urged leaders at household, community, national and regional levels to commit to fulfilling the Promise of Cairo adopted 25 years ago.





Stakeholders from the Government of the Republic of Namibia, African Union Commission (AUC), NEPAD and WFP officially launched the study in Namibia © UN Namibia

COST OF HUNGER STUDY LAUNCHED

WFP - 12 SEPTEMBER, WINDHOEK

The Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) - Namibia Study was launched on 12 September. The study will undertake an analysis of the social and economic impact of child undernutrition in Namibia.

The COHA Study for Namibia is facilitated by the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) through the National Planning Commission (NPC) and the African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), World Food Programme (WFP) international, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations (UN) in Namibia.

Speaking at the launch on behalf of Hon. Obeth M. Kandjoze, Executive Director of NPC, Ms. Annelly Haiphene said "COHA aims to position nutrition high on the development agenda of the continent, in Namibia, the COHA will provide scenario-based analysis that projects savings gained from reducing undernutrition, provide recommendations that will contribute to human capital gain in Namibia, and provide the evidence base to justify the need to increase investment in nutrition." She further added, "These will bring us another step closer to our zero Hunger Agenda."

Haiphene said, "Nutrition is an important pillar of our National Development Agenda and we are cognizant of the fact that nutrition is not a single sectoral issue, but rather a cross-cutting issue. This is also mirrored in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), twelve (12) out of the seventeen (17) SDGs have nutrition outcomes, reflecting the significance of nutrition to development. However, to realise this development outcome, there is a need for a secured

access to an appropriate nutritious diet coupled with water, sanitary environment, adequate health services and care, which is necessary to ensuring a healthy and active life for the population as well as increasing productivity."

COHA results have encouraged Governments on the African continent to adopt concrete policy actions, affirming political commitment through increased investments to nutrition interventions.

Speaking on behalf of the UN Namibia, Ms. Rachel Odede, UN Resident Coordinator said, "According to the 2013 Namibia Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) 24 % of children under the age of 5 in Namibia are stunted. In other words, one (1) out of four (4) Namibian children are too short for their age because of malnutrition, and malnutrition can affect their health, their school performance, and limit their ability to contribute to social and economic development in the country."

In Namibia, the most common immediate causes of malnutrition in children under five, according to the Namibian Demographic Health Survey 2013, are inadequate breastfeeding and poor complementary feeding practices, poor caretaking practices, frequent infections such as diarrhea through poor hygiene, malaria, pneumonia, and poor maternal nutritional status.

The UN Resident Coordinator further added that, "The United Nations remains committed to supporting the process in Namibia of undertaking this study which will apprise initiatives that will transform Namibia into a hunger-free nation and to collaborate to ensure achievement of Namibia's target to reduce stunting to 12% and further to eliminate it by 2030, thereby ensuring prosperity and sustainable opportunities for all Namibians."





The UNDP Namibia Resident Representative Ms. Alka Bhatia hands over certificates to EMPRETEC graduates © UNDP

NAMIBIA LAUNCHES EMPRETEC PROGRAMME

UNDP - 10 OCTOBER, WINDHOEK

The EMPRETEC Namibia Programme was officially launched by the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development and UNDP Namibia on 16 October 2019 in Windhoek. The programme promotes entrepreneurship as a vital component of economic growth and development in the country.

The UNDP Namibia Resident Representative Ms. Alka Bhatia stated that the EMPRETEC Namibia pilot programme will target 1,650 unemployed people. EMPRETEC has a notable success rate as many of the graduates have gone on to establish businesses and create further employment.

A total of 56 Micro, Small and Medium entrepreneurs have graduated from the first 2 sets of training of the EMPRETEC Namibia programme. The cohort received their certificates at the official launch of the programme.

"I implore upon you to go out there and unleash your entrepreneurial spirit to assist the Namibian Nation in efforts to eradicate poverty & ensure both social and economic #transformation," the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development, Hon. Lucia Iipumbu stated.

The programme's central product is the Entrepreneurship Training Workshop (ETW), which aims to foster the motivation and self-confidence of participants who have chosen to start or expand their businesses. It is based on a behavioural approach, designed to unleash personal entrepreneurial potential.



Members of the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development and UNDP Namibia © UNDP





SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION



The main character of the book, Frieda © UNIC

FRIEDA LAUNCHED INTERNATIONALLY

UNIC - 13 AUGUST, NEW YORK

UN Publications, in collaboration with the UN Information Centre (UNIC) Windhoek, Namibia, is excited to announce the launch of Frieda Makes a Difference in English, French, and Spanish on 13 August 2019.

The book is now available at the UN Bookshops in New York and Geneva, as well as on the UN Bookshop website.

Frieda Makes a Difference is about a young girl named Frieda who embarks on a wonderful adventure to bring about positive change in the world. Through her encounter with Ana from the UN, Frieda learns about the Sustainable Development Goals and what she can do to help make the world a better place for everyone.

This story encourages children to help resolve the biggest issues of our day: from combating climate change and protecting endangered species to ending poverty and fighting inequality.

The book was initially conceived by UNIC Windhoek before it was made available for a global audience through UN Publications.

Anthea Basson Quote:

“Frieda offers distinct learning opportunities for young children. It is a story in action, to develop young minds to listen, as well as to help develop memory strategies, imaginative solutions and an understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals. All of which are essential to the emergence of early literacy,”

For more books on the SDGs, visit the SDG Book Club



HOW CAN KIDS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD?

Join Frieda on her adventure to help the world!





**Social
Transformation**

Participants of the CPD Conference for Educators © UNESCO

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATORS

UNESCO - 22-23 AUGUST, RUNDU

The annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Conference for educators serves as a premiere platform where educators in Namibia, and around the globe, come together to share best practices and exchange experience and ideas in learning and teaching and continuing professional development. The theme of the conference was “teaching, learning and student success”.

The overall objective of the conference was to advance quality teaching and learning through sharing, interchanging of experiences, exchange of cross regional experiences, and network of stakeholders in the education sector. This fifth Annual CPD Conference took place from 22-23 August in Rundu in the Kavango East Region

The conference brought together 214 educators (teachers, lecturers and education managers) from across the country and internationally to share and exchange experiences, ideas and best practices in CPD related topics.

UNESCO presentation on the topic “learning and Teaching in the context of Sustainable Development”. The Head of Education sector, Mr. Ehrens Mbamanovandu represented UNESCO and in his presentation addressed, the issue of how education systems can develop knowledge and strategies of teaching and learning for sustainable development in both global as well as local contexts. He elaborated on what is meant by ‘education for sustainability’, why education for sustainability is important, and the role of education in sustainable development.

The presented illustrations also demonstrated strategies to specifically implement Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in various contexts with some tangible examples of work done in various countries including Namibia. These examples focused on four key domains: i) Integration of ESD in policies, strategies and programmes; ii) Integrating ESD in curricula and textbooks; iii) Integration of ESD in Teacher Education, and iv) Delivering ESD in the classroom and other learning settings.

“Learning, Teaching and Learners Success: From Cradle to Lifelong Learning”





Social Transformation

Health care workers pictured with FAO, WFP and MOHSS staff after the training © FAO

NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

FAO - 2-6 SEPTEMBER, WINDHOEK

FAO Namibia in conjunction with World Food Programme (WFP) facilitated a 'Nutrition, HIV/AIDS and Food Security' training workshop with the Ministry of Health and Social Services Directorates of Primary Health Care, Family Health Division and Training) from 2- 6 September 2019 at Rundu in Kavango East region.

The workshop was developed to capacitate Health Care Workers (HCWs) on how to manage and effectively counsel clients on Nutrition, HIV/AIDS and Food Security. Through a 'training of trainers' type of workshop, participants made use of the recently published facilitator and participant manual which the 'Relationship between Nutrition and HIV' 'Managing HIV-Related Symptoms through Diet', 'How to Identify Malnutrition', 'Infants and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)', 'Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)' and 'Nutritional Needs of Pregnant Women'. The participants were provided with the practical knowledge and skills to appropriately counsel and educate patients/clients and caregivers on nutrition.

The training arises from the need for HCWs to grasp critical knowledge and skills which ensure that clients are effectively cared for, treated and managed. During the one-week workshop, participants were also introduced to tools to address the barriers of food insecurity at household level, healthy nutrition practices and practical steps on integrating nutrition and food security assessments.

Through participant feedback at the end of the workshop, attendees remarked that they were now more equipped to give better nutrition counselling and would be able

to train others on basic principles of Nutrition and HIV/AIDS. In terms of creating awareness, participants were encouraged to use poster displays of Namibian food groups and contribute towards educating about locally available foods at health facilities. They also voiced a commitment to ensure that malnutrition clients are closely monitored, providing counselling to HIV clients to ensure adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) and encouraging healthy nutritional habits and practices.





Social Transformation

Community members and partners gather to commemorate World Hepatitis Day and launch CLTS © UNDP

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY COMMEMORATION

UNDP - 07 SEPTEMBER, WINDHOEK

The United Nations System in Namibia and its development partners came together to support the elimination of Hepatitis E in Namibia. Partners and community members of Samora Marchel and Moses Garoeb Constituencies in the Khomas Region commemorated World Hepatitis Day, and simultaneously launched the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) campaign, to increase access to safe sanitation in the informal settlements.

Following the declaration of a health emergency in December 2017 due to a Hepatitis outbreak, there has been an increased focus on the lack of inadequate water supply and poor sanitation, which are reported to be the main drivers of the outbreak in the informal settlements.

The launch of CLTS signals Namibia's commitment in fighting viral hepatitis. The innovative approach mobilises community members in the two constituencies to eliminate open defecation. It places a focus on mobilising behaviour change to ensure sustainable improvements which go beyond the provision of toilets. CLTS triggers a need for collective change and a self-assessment process through which communities can better understand the risk of disease and the dangers of open defecation. Furthermore, it creates a greater sense of ownership for the community considering their own well being.

As part of his keynote address at the launch, the Executive Director of the Ministry of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ben Nangombe emphasised the need for the community to work together to ensure total elimination of the disease in the community. Additionally, he thanked the Japanese government for supporting Namibia in attempts to eliminate the disease and urged the communities to take care of the facilities and not vandalise them.

In his remarks at the launch, on behalf of the UN Namibia, the World Health Organisation Country Representative Dr. Charles Sagoe Moses said, "We are here to recognise that in order to curb the spread of Hepatitis E in the urban and informal settlements, good sanitation and hygiene for all can be achieved in Namibia".

Access to improved sanitation is a basic human right, yet in Namibia, 46% nationally (Urban: 26% and Rural: 70%) practices open defecation. This is coupled with only 54% of the population practicing handwashing at critical times. Generally, when there is poor sanitation coverage, the health of populations is affected.

Dr. Charles Sagoe Moses noted that "The UN sister agencies are happy that the City of Windhoek and line ministries have embraced the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach, not only to address the ongoing Hepatitis E outbreak but as a sustainable solution to address sanitation and hygiene challenges faced by Namibia."

He congratulated community members, the Government of Japan for funding the Hepatitis E project through UNDP as well as the CLTS Task-force that has worked tirelessly to mobilise their communities to build their own toilets and improve their hygiene practices such as handwashing with water at critical times.

The elimination of Hepatitis is imperative to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Universal Health Coverage by 2030. The UN Namibia will continue to support national and regional policymakers to increase political and financial commitments for hepatitis response.

The collaborating partners were the UN in Namibia, the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), City of Windhoek (COW), Development Workshop Namibia and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).





Midwives save lives – but more support for midwifery is needed. © UNFPA

LAUNCH OF UNFPA'S GLOBAL MIDWIFERY STRATEGY 2018–2030

UNFPA - 10 SEPTEMBER, WINDHOEK

The UNFPA Global Midwifery Strategy for 2018–2030 was launched at the Safari Hotel ahead of the International Confederation of Midwifery (ICM) Regional Conference.

The new strategy for years 2018–2030 was created to advance the fulfilment of the health pillar of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG3), which aims to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio (MMR) to less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030.

Mikaela Hildebrand, the Senior Policy Advisor on sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) at the Embassy of Sweden in Lusaka, commented on the current situation: "We have made tremendous progress over the years in reducing the level of maternal and child mortality, but there are still many deaths that are completely preventable – in births, during the first month of life, and after giving birth. The new strategy is putting up a checklist for what we can do better in our countries."

For the strategy, UNFPA teamed up with ICM, an organisation that supports and represents professional associations of midwives on a global arena. The midwives are an invaluable partner for UNFPA, as they constitute the health professionals whose contribution is essential for delivering comprehensive sexual and reproductive as well as maternal health services.

"We need you, the world needs you because we know that midwives are categorically essential in achieving justice in childbearing," said Dennia Gayle, UNFPA Representative for Namibia.

The midwives are identified as agents of change, as they are not only a cost-effective way to saving the lives of women and children, but also increasing their health and well-being. Furthermore, they often form the first point of contact between the expecting mothers and maternal health services. Thus, they are able to narrow the gaps that still exist in terms of maternal and newborn health.

The main goal of the new strategy is to enable all women to have access to quality midwifery services and care. The goal is achieved through the strengthening of the competence of midwives, supporting countries to have fully functioning midwifery associations, increasing the level of midwives in hospitals and clinics, creating supportive legal and policy frameworks that enable midwives to provide respectful care, and enhancing the practice's recognition and implementation on global programmes and frameworks.

Ms. Anneka Knutsson, Chief of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Branch at the UNFPA headquarters, lauded the ambitious goals of the Global Midwifery Strategy 2018–2030 in a speech she gave during the launch. "This strategy helps us carry through to the next step, where every woman and girl can get the services that they deserve, and that are delivered to them with dignity. We need to assure that the full life course of a girl needs to be supported from the beginning until menopause," she said.

The new strategy is a welcome and needed addition to the UNFPA's already impressive mandate. It offers tangible guidelines to ascertain that the rights of children and women are advanced and advocated for in a manner that puts those in the most vulnerable position at the heart of the agenda.



We need to change our approach to ensuring that no mother dies while giving birth. - Juliet Kavetuna, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Namibia. © UNFPA

EVEN ONE PREVENTABLE MATERNAL DEATH IS SIMPLY NOT ACCEPTABLE

UNFPA - 12 SEPTEMBER, WINDHOEK

Midwives, health-care providers and professional associations are the closest to delivering on the promise of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) to millions of women, children and adolescents and ensuring universal sexual and reproductive health and rights.

This was stated in a commitment delivered by midwives at the closing of the International Confederation of Midwifery (ICM) Regional Conference held in Namibia from 12-14 September 2019.

There has been unprecedented progress in improving sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health in the past 25 years. However, despite this progress millions of women remain unable to access quality services, the statement read.

At the event, midwives reaffirmed their commitment to equitable quality sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health outcomes.

"I am committed to changing the face of the African woman and will lead in driving the agenda for holistic, dignified and appropriate health care for pregnant women," said Juliet Kavetuna, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services.

"All efforts we [governments, health actors and donors] put into ensuring that no mother will die while giving life will be in vain if we are not changing out approach," she said.

Speaking at the opening of the conference, themed 'Midwives Leading the Way for Quality and Equity in Africa'. "When we train midwives based on international standards developed by the ICM, we are able to meet 87 per cent of needs related to sexual and reproductive health," said Dr. Julitta Onabanjo, UNFPA Regional Director for East and Southern Africa.

Toyin Saraki, ICM Global Goodwill Ambassador said: "Between 2010 and 2015, Nigeria adopted the midwives' service scheme, which provided 4,400 midwives across the country with midwifery kits."

When midwives are better equipped and remunerated, receive training based on ICM standards and their workplace is free from sexual harassment and gender discrimination, they are able to carry out a full range of services, leading to improvements in survival and quality of care, she added.

UNFPA will carry the flame on the road to the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 in November and ignite candles for commitments to achieve inclusive, people-centered development and respect for people's rights, with an emphasis on ending preventable maternal death, ending unmet need for family planning, and ending gender-based violence and sexually transmitted HIV infections, said Dennia Gayle, UNFPA Representative for Namibia.

Poor quality of care in facilities coupled with a lack of essential knowledge and skills are contributing to the deaths of more than half of newborns and half of women, said Charles Sagoe-Moses, World Health Organization Country Representative for Namibia.

Recommitting to ICPD and sexual and reproductive health At the conference, ICM (which represents 140 midwifery associations in 120 countries), health-care providers, governments, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector recommitted to four broad areas: the universal right to access comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services; the provision of a safe, respectful, positive and healthy childbirth experience for all pregnant women; advocacy for access to sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents; and striving for provision of quality sexual, maternal, newborn and adolescent care that promotes the best chance of healthy maternal and newborn outcomes.





Participants at Nama Music exit workshop. © UNESCO

AIXAN CLOSURE WORKSHOP

UNESCO - 10-11 OCTOBER, WINDHOEK

An exit workshop for the inventorying and documentation of the 'AIXAN /GANA /OB#ANS TSI //KHASIGU', translated as 'Ancestral Musical Sound, Knowledge and Skills' (Nama Music) listed on the Namibia Tentative National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage was held in Mariental, Hardap Region from 10 to 11 October 2019. The workshop was conducted by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Technical Committee, in partnership with UNESCO and the Directorate of National Heritage and Culture Programs of Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture.

The workshop informed the community of the status of the successful submission for nomination to the UNESCO Urgent Safeguarding List; ensured the continuity of community engagement and consultation throughout the process of inventorying and documenting the element; and presented and validated the narrative and financial report. The platform was also utilised to encourage community members to continue their safeguarding efforts.

Nama Music involves the usage of traditional musical instruments: the khab (musical bow) and iguitsib (traditional guitar), usually played by either men or women; and the vlies (harmonica) usually played by women which is accompanied by singing, humming and ululating. The music is usually accompanied by a dance, commonly referred to as 'Nama-stap' which literally translates to 'the dancing steps of the Nama people'. Dancers play a prominent role during traditional celebrations, allowing both women and men to express specific values through ritualistic dances and movements.

Nama music faces the threat of weakened practice and transmission for a number of reasons. Firstly, owing to the fact that there are few practitioners or active tradition bearers,

and the average age of those remaining is too advanced to ensure the continuity of the practice. Secondly, diminishing participation as a result of a growing lack of interest in attending or partaking in the practices and representations of the ethnic group. This is further exacerbated, by diminishing youth interest, with young people being less inclined to actively participate in intangible heritage manifestations, possibly because they consider intangible heritage as less important for their sense of identity. Lastly, reduced practice and repertoire also contribute to the threats.

The exit workshop followed the submission of the nomination to have Nama Music included on the UNESCO Urgent Safeguarding List. The List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding aims at mobilizing attention and international cooperation to safeguard intangible cultural heritage whose viability is at risk despite the best efforts of the communities or the State Parties. It records the safeguarding measures elaborated by the State Party with the widest participation of communities, which may benefit from the financial support of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

Safeguarding measures outlined in the nomination include improving visibility of the element and Intangible Cultural Heritage in general; enhancing, preserving and promoting the element among youth, community members and the entire country; increasing the transmission of music performance skills among the youth through non-formal music teaching program. It also includes traditional craftsmanship by producing traditional musical instruments; and enhancing national capacities in inventorying and documentation among community and strengthen sub regional cooperation in Southern African countries on the Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage.





Social Transformation

National Library and Archive Service (NLAS) staff pictured with UNIC staff at the handover © UNIC

UN INFORMATION CENTRE SUPPORT 'ONE CHILD, ONE BOOK' CAMPAIGN

UNIC - 15 OCTOBER, WINDHOEK

With a shortage of reading books in school libraries the Ministry of Education embarked on a drive to solicit the support of the private sector and partners to acquire books. UNIC Windhoek as a long-standing partner to the Ministry, heeded the call-in support of the national reading campaign, "One Child, One Book."

On Tuesday, 15 October, the Centre donated books valued at N\$ 12,000 which includes a variety of fiction and nonfiction books as well as one hundred copies of the story book "Frieda and the Sustainable Development Goals."

"The One Child One Book reading campaign is a brand-new project that the Directorate of Namibia Library and Archives Service through school library service is introducing with the aims to:

- Expand and deepen an appreciation of books
- Promote reading to support the national class 'reading period', fight illiteracy and highlight the importance of reading for personal and national development.
- Capacitate language subject advisors, regional librarians, school librarians and teachers on how to conduct the reading period activities.

Ms. Namutenya Hamwaalwa. Deputy Director, National Library and Archive Service (NLAS) highlighted, "UNIC's contribution to the School libraries project is highly valuable as School libraries are fundamental to education. They offer opportunities for experiences in creating and using information for knowledge, understanding, imagination and enjoyment. Those are key concepts to the people who are concerned with the provision of quality education to

all learners. That in itself quantifies the importance of this donation."

Handing over the books to the NLAS, Ms. Anthea Basson, Head of UNIC Windhoek said, "An early reading culture fosters lifelong learning and enables children to grow into innovative citizens. The habit should be imbibed throughout one's lifetime." She commended the Ministry of Education and the National Library and Archive Service for their commitment to enhancing literacy and addressing the low reading proficiency in the country. She added, "The story books "Frieda and the Sustainable Development Goals" will go a long way in inspiring young children to play their part in helping to achieve the Goals."

Ms. Sarah Negumbo, Director of the National Library and Archive Service, said, "Our role as Libraries, is to promote the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the public and we are happy today that our recipients - the School Libraries through these donated books will help create an awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals among the young learners."

The handover signified a partnership aimed at contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 4, 'Quality Education' on a national scale.



Toddlers from Windhoek's informal settlement, sit down and read © UNIC





**Social
Transformation**

Otjomuise Primary School learners enjoying the fortified maize blend with soup © Selma Ileka

NAMIBIA LAUNCHED NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING POLICY

WFP - 18 OCTOBER, WINDHOEK

The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC) with the technical support of the World Food Programme (WFP) have developed the National School Feeding Policy. The objective of the policy together with its Implementation Action Plan is to ensure quality and inclusive education for all. The launch was officiated by Hon. Ester Anna Nghipondoka, Deputy Minister for Education, Arts and Culture at the Otjomuise Primary School in Windhoek.

The policy was approved by Cabinet early in March this year and is aimed at providing a framework to improve access to quality education delivered by a decentralized school feeding programme that promotes the consumption of locally produced food; enhances health and nutrition of learners; addresses short-term hunger enabling learners to concentrate better in class while at the same time acting as a social safety net to beneficiary households.

The deputy minister said the policy reaffirms the government's commitment to ensure good governance, efficiency, accountability and meaningful participation. "This is a significant milestone for the Government of the Republic of Namibia and an important safety net as proper nutrition is crucial for the development of the children," she added. School health and nutrition initiatives, such as school feeding, contributes in strengthening human development capacity of the nation. The resulting benefits is a highly educated and employable society.

Mr. Bai Mankay Sankoh, WFP Country Director, in his statement delivered on his behalf by Mr. Elvis Odeke, said "the notion that no child should be in school on an empty

stomach is clearly a goal that WFP is determined to achieve." He congratulated the MoEAC for this great achievement and reiterated WFP's commitment to attain national and global development goals, such as helping to end poverty and hunger, facilitating inclusive quality education, contributing to the empowerment of girls, and achieving sustainable economic growth.

The school principal Mr. Awie Saal confirmed that about 600 learners benefit from the school feeding programme daily. And in addition, have benefited from 4 harvests from the hydroponics garden since it was set up in January 2019. To date, WFP assisted two schools with the set-up of a hydroponics gardens.

Benefits of school gardens

- 1 Taste and learn about healthy food
- 2 Learn how to grow vegetables and fruits
- 3 Develop team work skills
- 4 Promote better nutrition
- 5 Learn to value the work of who grows our food

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations





Social Transformation

Delegates from 10 countries pose for a group photograph while attending a UNODC regional training of trainers' workshop addressing issues of HIV and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in prison. © UNODC

NAMIBIA HOSTS UNODC REGIONAL SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) TRAINING

UNODC - 15-17 OCTOBER, WINDHOEK

A regional training of trainers' workshop addressing issues of HIV and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in prison settings ended in October with a call to safeguard the health of people in prison in order to protect public health.

The training drew about 60 participants from 10 countries. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) convened the training with financial support from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). UNODC is supporting member states to implement a regional programme titled: "Supporting Minimum Standards for HIV, Health and Rights in Prison Populations of Sub-Saharan Africa".

The project seeks alignment of SRHR with UN regional standards. Specifically, it strives to help member of states make SRHR services available to women and adolescent prison populations. UNODC has supported the development of a module to build the capacity of non-medical staff of prison or correctional services to deliver comprehensive SRHR and HIV services to inmates under their care.

Commissioner General of the Namibian Correctional Service (NCS), Raphael Hamunyela, argued that prisons or correctional services should provide health care that is similar or better than is found in the general community because of the unique vulnerabilities of people in incarceration.

"We believe in the principle that good correctional health is good public health. Since those under our care often come from backgrounds of higher exposure to a variety of diseases and unhealthy conditions, there is need for correctional services, prisons or penitentiary services to deliver equal or

better health care services than are in the community," he said.

Signe Rotberga, the Regional Coordinator for UNODC in Southern Africa, said the training was timely given that UNODC was implementing a regional project on promoting compliance with international standards for HIV and SRHR services and rights. "Recently, we did an assessment in 10 countries that are participating in this project. This survey identified several gaps that need to be addressed. Other gaps are related to policies and laws," she said.

The training took place against the backdrop of reports that the world is grappling a growing prison population. Professor Heino Stover from Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences was one of the facilitators during the training. He said women inmates bear a disproportionate burden of infectious diseases in many prison settings and thus require targeted interventions.

"Women are highly susceptible to infection with HIV and other sexually transmitted infections in prison as they often come from socially marginalized groups and are vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation in the prison environment," he said.

Discussions during the highly interactive training touched on a variety of issues that included mental health; the use of uniforms by staff and inmates; prevention of harm; continuity of care; human rights; Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDGs 3, 5 and 16; global commitments to prison health; HIV and AIDS prevention in prison; as well as sexually transmitted infections.

Olivia Obell, the Director of the AIDS Control Unit in the Kenya Prisons Service, hailed the training and called for more similar capacity building initiatives. "The prison communities - inmates, staff members and families- are currently witnessing unprecedented challenges implementing effective interventions in HIV prevention, treatment, care and support," she said.





A Glucose test is used to determine someone's glucose level and determine the risk of developing diabetes. © WHO

TRAINING OF TRAINERS TO STRENGTHEN THE CLINICAL CARE OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AT THE PERIPHERY

WHO - 15-17 OCTOBER, WINDHOEK

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) exerts a growing burden on mortality and morbidity in Namibia. They account for an estimated 43% of total deaths in the country. As part of efforts to reduce this growing burden, the Ministry of Health and Social Services with support from WHO is strengthening the health system to ensure that comprehensive services for prevention and control of NCDs are decentralized to peripheral health facilities. The WHO Package of Essential Non-Communicable Disease interventions or PEN guideline is a minimum standard for prevention and control of NCDs to strengthen national capacity through the integration and scale-up care of care for hypertension, stroke, cardiovascular risks, Diabetes Mellitus, asthma and Chronic lung Diseases at primary care level.

The Ministry organized the first national TOT training on the PEN package with the support of WHO and other partners and funding from AMREF. AMREF is providing funding to the MoHSS to train 100 health care workers in PEN by December 2019. Overall objective of the training was to conduct training of trainers on the PEN Guideline for primary care settings. The TOT was attended by 35 health workers including Chief Medical Officers, nurses and allied professionals from across the 2 regions, Hardap and Kavango, where the initial implementation of the decentralized services will take place. They in turn trained 28 health care providers in Hardap region to strengthen NCDs care at primary health care level. The training was conducted using the new national PEN Guideline which was developed through the technical support of WHO, CDC and UNAM.

Namibia is making steady progress in addressing non-communicable diseases. The country has a unit dedicated to the prevention and control of NCDs, there are measures through legislation and policies to control tobacco and

alcohol use. Namibia is one of the few countries in Africa with a cancer registry. A multi-sectoral plan for the control and prevention of NCDs is in place and this is being implemented through a national coordination mechanism. The drafting of the PEN guidelines and the subsequent training of health care workers strengthens NCDs prevention and care for all even at the periphery.

World Health Organization

Noncommunicable diseases - NCDs - heart and lung diseases, stroke, cancer and diabetes - are THE BIGGEST KILLERS WORLDWIDE

5 main NCD risks

- Unhealthy diet
- Tobacco use
- Air pollution
- Harmful use of alcohol
- Physical inactivity





**Social
Transformation**

Nurses working in Namibian Correctional Services facilities all over Namibia and others pose with newly-appointed Country Director for UNAIDS Namibia, Alti Zwandor at the start of a nurse-initiated antiretroviral programme training in Windhoek © Moses Magadza, UNODC

UNAIDS SUPPORTS TRAINING OF PRISON NURSES IN HIV & AIDS MANAGEMENT

UNODC - 4 November 2019, Windhoek

Approximately 30 nurses from the Namibian Correctional Service (NCS) facilities throughout the country met in Windhoek for a five-day training on how to initiate inmates living with HIV on anti-retroviral treatment (ART) and manage them. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in Namibia funded the training while the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the International Training and Education Center for Health (I-TECH) provided technical support.

The newly-appointed Country Director for UNAIDS Namibia, Alti Zwandor, an epidemiologist, said Namibia had done remarkably well in one of 10 global targets agreed by world leaders at the High-Level Meeting in 2016 related to Ending AIDS by 2030, but there was scope for more to be done.

“Namibia met the 90-90-90 targets three years ahead of schedule. That is the good news. The bad news is that Namibia is not going to reach the target of reducing new HIV infections by 75% by 2020. That is why this training of nurses working in prison settings, is very important,” Zwandor said. While noting that treatment was an important tool for prevention, she said, globally, the prevalence of HIV among people in prison settings is much higher than in the general population.

The latest UNAIDS global report made available on the 28th of October 2019, notes that despite the relative ease of access to HIV-related services for all people, prison populations remain underserved.

A recent review of country reports to UNAIDS, in the last three years showed that many prisoners are lacking basic HIV services. The review found that very few countries reported programme data on the provision of HIV services in prisons with only one in three countries providing condoms, 24 countries providing opioid substitution therapy while three countries provide sterile injecting equipment in prisons. With regards to HIV testing and treatment the report found that 74 countries reported programme data on antiretroviral therapy coverage and 83 countries reported HIV testing in prisons.

Zwandor said the last five years had demonstrated the need for Member States to rapidly expand and scale up access to HIV prevention and treatment services to everyone including key populations.

She argued that bringing nurses on board to initiate patients on ART treatment would increase the pool of skilled health professionals while improving the quality of care that people living with HIV get. She explained that the nurse-initiated antiretroviral programmes was not unique to Namibia but had been tried and tested elsewhere.

Idel Billah, a medical doctor and the Deputy Director of Clinical Services at I-TECH, also hailed the training as a giant leap in the right direction, saying it would “phenomenally increase” the number of people who can provide expert care to people living with HIV in prison settings.





ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



**Environmental
Sustainability**

Electric Vehicle (EV) © UNDP

DRIVING E-MOBILITY IN NAMIBIA: UNDP LAUNCHES ELECTRIC VEHICLES

UNDP - 04 OCTOBER, WINDHOEK

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Namibia officially launched the Vehicle-Grid-Integration (VGI) and Electric Vehicle (EV) project at the United Nations House in Windhoek.

Ms. Alka Bhatia stated that the talks for this project started in 2016 and that Namibia is making great strides in the energy sector and I am happy to say that by using these cars and charging them through the solar energy here, we will contribute to our Greening the Blue efforts and reduce our carbon emissions significantly. This pilot project is the first installation of VGI technology in Namibia, and the first at a UN compound in Africa, standing to demonstrate the solution to internal and external stakeholders, with the aim to trigger widespread adoption of EVs across the country.

Two Nissan leaf electric cars were donated to UNDP by Nissan South Africa to pilot the project. The Executive Director of Corporate Affairs for Nissan South Africa Mr. Wonga Mesatywa during his presentation stated that Electric vehicles’ batteries have a second life function whereby the cars, homes, offices, businesses and remote villages would combine to form a smart grid where second life batteries could be used to supply electricity.

Furthermore, Nuve, a company specialising in improving electric vehicle’s performance and reliability donated two bi-directional chargers to UNDP, which are installed in the U House basement and are used to charge the electric cars. Mr. Paul Chapman an Engineer from Nuvve stated that Nuvve’s patented V2G technology optimizes electric vehicle (EV) charging, lowers the total cost of ownership for EVs, and increases the positive environmental impact of EVs by

supporting the introduction of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar as an alternative to fossil fuel power plants.

Joining the ceremony remotely from Copenhagen, Denmark, Mr. Gerald Demeules, Global ICT Advisor at the UNDP Office of Information Management and Technology (OIMT) said during his speech: “Many people are accelerating the shift from ICE [internal combustion engine] to EVs because green e-mobility is profitable. Profitable because EVs offer more value by offering the grid operator to store energy: a buy-low, sell-high dynamic. This marks enormous strides with incredible potential in reducing CO2 [emissions] and inspiring many more to follow suit”.

With this project UNDP aims to ensure business continuity, decrease dependency on externally and diesel-power based sources, lower costs of EVs ownership, manage electricity charges, increase energy efficiency, facilitate environmental responsibility and pilot emergency response services with EV.

In 2017 UN House Namibia adopted solar power by installing a 104kWp solar photovoltaic system, which was combined with electric vehicles connected via bi-directional power charger earlier this year. In this project, the set-up will provide energy backup, load shifting, peak shaving and emergency power supply functionalities for the UN House Namibia compound.

The solar energy produced is primarily used to serve the UN compound needs with excess solar power produced used to charge the EVs when they are connected to the charging stations. In the evening, EVs serve as power sources replacing more expensive energy from the grid (energy shifting). When grid power goes down, whether due to infrequent wide-scale grid outages or more frequent outages caused by local disruptions, the EVs can be used as a backup power supply to power the primary appliances like lighting, communication equipment and, if possible, lower priority functions like refrigeration or limited air-conditioning.





Hochland High School Learners at the launch of the Vehicle-Grid-Integration (VGI) and Electric Vehicle (EV) project © UN Namibia



UNAIDS Namibia Country Director: Dr. Alti Zwandor, UNDP Namibia Resident Representative: Ms. Alka Bhatia and UNICEF Namibia Representative: Ms. Rachel Odede during the official launch © UN Namibia



Learners from Hochland High School stand alongside one of the Nissan leaf electric cars at the United Nations House in Windhoek © UN Namibia





3,470 kg

of CO₂ emissions
reduced annually

Did you know that by switching to electric vehicles, the UNDP Namibia and UNICEF Namibia offices will reduce carbon emissions by 3,470 kg annually





**Environmental
Sustainability**

UN staff planting trees in Samora Machel Constituency © UNDP

UN DAY CELEBRATED THROUGH TREE PLANTING

UNDP - 24 OCTOBER, WINDHOEK

The UN system in Namibia held a symbolic tree planting drive in the Samora Machel Constituency which involved the planting of 500 saplings. The Samora Machel Constituency is located across four northern suburbs of Windhoek: Wanaheda, Greenwell Matongo, Goreangab, and part of Havana. Most of the residents of this constituency are formally unemployed and derive their income from informal employment and small enterprises like shebeens and car washes. The impact of HIV/AIDS is high.

The event coincided with the UN's 74th anniversary celebration, highlighting the enduring ideals of the Charter.

UN Resident Coordinator at interim, Rachel Odede said in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, the selected saplings are indigenous to the central region of Namibia and particularly well suited to the dry conditions. "As a result, the trees require less water, but will provide lush green areas in the community," stated Odede.

Following the symbolic gesture, the Samora Machel constituency will coordinate the planting of the trees within the community. Odede stated planting trees is a lifelong investment as it provides environmental, economic and social benefits throughout its lifetime. She noted the 2018/2019-rainfall season has been extremely poor with unprecedented severe drought conditions which affected the whole country, resulting in agricultural production losses and water shortages for human, livestock and industrial use. The revised crop estimates showed massive reduction in harvest with aggregated cereals at 61 percent lower than the last season's harvest and 52 percent below the average

production. She added that household food security has weakened significantly. Grazing and water supply situation continues to deteriorate in all parts of the country as drought conditions strengthen.

In addition, the Minister of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, Bishop Zephania Kameeta said the investment of planting trees in the surrounding will have long lasting benefits to the community. Kameeta also noted that there are many benefits that people derive from planting trees such as combating climate change, trees clean the air, conserve energy and save water amongst others. "It is believed that trees placed strategically around a single-family home can cut summer air conditioning needs by up to 50 percent by reducing the energy demand for cooling our houses, will reduce carbon dioxide and other pollution emission from power plants," Bishop Kameeta stated.

Planting trees is a worthwhile, valuable investment and it aligns with the UN's master plan to attain the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for all.

Did you know?

One large tree can provide a day's worth of oxygen for four humans





Stakeholders launch the Operationalisation of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP) Namibia © FAO

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE OPERATIONALISATION OF THE SADC REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY (RAP) NAMIBIA

FAO - 21 OCTOBER, WINDHOEK

FAO Namibia and the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry (MAWF) launched the project “Support Towards the Operationalisation of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR)” for Namibia. The 33-month long project is financed by the European Union’s 11th Economic Development Fund Programme (EDF 11) with FAO as the lead implementing agency. Including all 16 member states the project will operationalise the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP) approved in June 2013 by the SADC Council of Ministers to develop and advance agriculture in the region. As a follow up, the SADC Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP) was approved in July 2016 to operationalise the RAIP. The RAIP was prepared in the context of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), established in Maputo in 2003 as a Pan-African policy framework to transform agriculture, create wealth, improve food security and nutrition and promote inclusive economic growth.

The focus of the project is to enhance information management systems and control of transboundary plant pests and animal diseases to create sustainable agricultural growth, socio-economic growth, promote trade and enhance food and nutrition security within the SADC region.

Additionally, the implementation of an integrated Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS) is proposed for member states to be effectively linked in a regional set up. “The project will also address information dissemination challenges and provide the technical expertise and financial resources at national and regional levels for hardware and software provision including coordination mechanisms” said Ferdinard Mwapopi, Assistant FAO Representative (Programme).

Overall, the project aims to ensure that the measures taken at regional and national levels will contribute towards improved rural livelihoods, food security and increased opportunities in trade.

The three components are as follows: the first two components will be implemented by FAO and the third to be implemented by the SADC Secretariat

1. enhancing information on agricultural production, sustainability and competitiveness for evidence-based decision-making
2. improving access to markets through implementation of plant and animal pest and disease control strategies at the regional level
3. facilitating implementation of some components of the Regional Food and Nutrition Security Strategy (FNSS) in SADC Member States





GOOD GOVERNANCE



Good Governance

A group of young people seated around a bonfire in the park © UNICEF

BONFIRE CONVERSATION WITH THE FOUNDING PRESIDENT

UNICEF - 14 OCTOBER, WINDHOEK

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) had the privilege to film a “Bonfire Conversation” with the Founding President, Dr. Sam Nujoma, as part of celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

This special television production saw a group of children and young people spending an afternoon in the company of His Excellency, Dr. Sam Nujoma.

The group had the opportunity to speak with the Founding Father about what his vision was for children in signing and ratifying the CRC 29 years ago on 28 September 1990.

Other questions raised by them included his thoughts on what could be done better in ensuring that the rights of all children, including the most vulnerable are realized. The children also discussed their fears with the Founding President, the challenges that remain, and moving forward, where he thinks the country is heading in relation to its future generation.

This special production was filmed by the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) and will air on November 18th November 2019.



UNICEF Namibia Representative: Ms. Rachel Odede shakes hands with Founding President: Dr. Sam Nujoma



Dr. Sam Nujoma poses alongside the young attendees and UN staff © UNICEF





Good Governance

Young parliamentarians debated, and tabled motions on key issues raised from their respective regions and were able to raise awareness and advocate for inclusion in the legislation process © UNICEF

THE FIFTH SESSION OF NAMIBIA'S CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

UNICEF - 19-23 AUGUST, WINDHOEK

The 5th Session of the Children's Parliament took place from the 19th to the 23rd of August in Windhoek and was hosted by the National Assembly in partnership with UNICEF Namibia.

The 5th session was opened and hosted by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Prof. Peter Katjivivi, under the theme "Engaging Young People in the Legislative Process" and brought together a total of 98 Children representing the 13 political regions of the country.

The Children's Parliament was addressed on Wednesday, 21 August by Mr. Edward Ndopu, who is one of the 17 Global Advocates for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is the youngest, and only advocate, with a physical disability.

During his address Mr. Ndopu encouraged the young parliamentarians to become advocates for children with disability. "Young people across the globe are not asking for permission to speak and lead. Young people are taking it upon themselves to lead and speak up for justice and fairness" said Mr. Ndopu.

During the 5th session the newly elected young parliamentarians debated, and tabled motions on key issues raised from their respective regions and were able to raise awareness and advocate for inclusion in the legislation process.

The Children's Parliament tabled 25 motions for debate of which 24 were adopted, 1 motion rejected.

The 5th session of the Children's Parliament saw 4 committees formed with their focus centered on the following themes:

- Education & Information and Communication & Technology
- Rights of Children and Climate Change
- Health and Social Protection and
- Gender Equality and Social Welfare

The 5th Session of the Children's Parliament also officially endorsed the UNICEF led - Generation Unlimited Initiative, in recognising the importance of working with other youth organisations to scale up all efforts that promotes skills development and inclusivity, especially of children with disability and their families. The young parliamentarians further committed to be individual champions in their respective regions through supporting and assisting with all Generation Unlimited activities and campaigns during their term.





Good Governance

Female officers from the Namibian Correctional Service (NCS) pose for a group photograph with Commissioner General of NCS, Raphael Hamunyela (seated fifth from left) and other officials. Photos: Moses Magadza/UNODC

UNODC HELPS NAMIBIA LAUNCH CORRECTIONS WOMEN'S NETWORK

UNODC - 18 OCTOBER, OTJIWARONGO

Namibia, through the Namibian Correctional Service (NCS), has become the first Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Member State to launch a country-specific Corrections or Prisons Women's Network as the region acts to better appreciate the role of women officers in ensuring peace and stability.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) supported the establishment and launch of the network's chapter in Namibia. The SADC Secretariat hosted the symbolic launch of the Corrections/ Prisons Women's Network in Gaborone, Botswana on 15th May 2019. After that, Member States were expected to launch their country-specific chapters. The establishment of the Corrections/ Prisons Women's Network thus acknowledges the key roles that women correctional service officers play in making the region safer and free from drugs and crime.

Signe Rotberga, UNODC Regional Coordinator, explained the significance of the network. "Broadly and at a regional level, it seeks to, inter alia: coordinate and conduct research on Corrections/Prisons female Officers' issues; identify regional training needs; assess the readiness of Women Prison/Correctional Officers to participate in peace keeping missions; and raise awareness and understanding of the work of the network," she said.

UN Resolution 1325 acknowledges the importance of women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. This is in line with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, which calls for the empowerment of women, elimination of discrimination and achievement of gender equality through the development and implementation of gender-responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects.

The Commissioner General of NCS, Raphael Hamunyela, officially launched the network in Otjiwarongo in October. "This is yet another milestone in the history of NCS. Namibia prioritizes peace and security as prerequisites for regional integration, development and prosperity," Hamunyela said. He said NCS' mandate was to provide safe, secure and humane custody of offenders, rehabilitate and reintegrate them into the community as law-abiding citizens. "This is a challenging task that demands a balanced and skilled manpower as well as supportive stakeholders to achieve desired results," he said

The Executive Director in the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Wilhencia Uiras, was a special guest at the launch. She hoped that UN Resolution 1325 which was adopted 19 years ago, would continue to inspire women and highlight the unique issues that affect them whether in peace time or during armed conflict. She said the active participation of women in peacekeeping, was important.

"There is no way we can have sustainable development if we leave out 50 percent of the population. In Namibia, as women we constitute 51 percent of the population." She stressed that the mere absence of armed conflict did not guarantee the security and peace of women, many of whom remain vulnerable due to various issues including gender-based violence (GBV).

The launch comes at a time when the UNODC is implementing a Regional Project on promoting compliance with international standards for HIV and SRHR services and rights. Expectations are that the network would give women officers an organized and united voice on how best to respond to issues that affect them.



SOCIAL MEDIA ZONE

UNICEF Namibia @UnicefNamibia · Aug 1

1-7 August is World Breastfeeding Week! 🌍
Breastfeeding helps to give children the best start to life but it's only possible when parents have time, space and support.

This #WBW2019 UNICEF offices are advocating for family-friendly policies as part of #EarlyMomentsMatter



1 2 4

UNFPA Namibia @UNFPA_Namibia · Sep 4

The @UNNamibia Partnership Framework #UNPAF meeting brought together stakeholders from Ministries, Academia, and Civil Society to discuss the way forward in achieving #SocialTransformation in the fields of #health, #education, #socialprotection, and protection against #violence.



1 2 5

UNICEF Namibia @UnicefNamibia · Sep 5

This morning UNICEF along with government partners and @EU2Namibia at the official launch of the National ECD Campaign and the @WakaWakaMooByLM ECD TV series. #earlymomentsmatter #eatplaylove #ForEveryChild



3 3

UNDP Namibia @UNDPNamibia · Sep 6

Tomorrow, all roads lead to the Goreangab Soccer Field in the Samora Marchel Constituency and the Nalitungwe Kinder-Garden for the launch of the Community-Led Total Sanitation campaign (where toilet facilities have been built) and the commemoration of the World #Hepatitis Day.

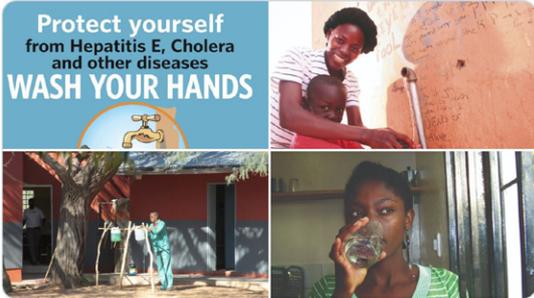


The Namibian and 7 others

1 8 12

WHO Namibia @WHONAMIBIA · Sep 7

Today Namibia will commemorate the World Hepatitis Day and launch the community led total sanitation in the areas that carry most the burden of Hepatitis E Virus since the outbreak in December 2017: Havana and Goreagab informal settlements in Windhoek



3

UNAIDS NAMIBIA @UnaidNamibia · Sep 12

The Fast Track Cities Conference happened this week. Windhoek presented 3 abstracts on stigma / discrimination and male engagement. Brava ladies for representing the city and sharing your work.

#FTCI #CitiesInitiative #HIV



City of Windhoek and 4 others

3 8

UNFPA Namibia @UNFPA_Namibia · Sep 17

Together with our partners, @UNFPA_Namibia is advocating to include the Washington Group Short Set of #Disability questions (#WGSS) in the upcoming #census 2021, in order to increase #inclusion & gather comprehensive #data on #PWD's in Namibia.

@namstatsagency #SDGs



1

UN Namibia @UNNamibia · Sep 28

It is the Day of the #Namibian Child today! What is your hope #ForEveryChild in Namibia? Tweet your hopes and aspirations for children below 🙏

#ForEveryChild in Namibia ...
@UnicefNamibia



1 10

SOCIAL MEDIA ZONE

UN Namibia @UNNamibia · Oct 3

The UN Reform aims to make the @UN more focused on people & delivery - less bureaucracy. #UnitedtoReform

"The true test of reform will be measured in tangible results in the lives of the people we serve – and the trust of those who support our work."
@antonioguterres



2

UNDP Namibia @UNDPNamibia · Oct 5

Joining the launch remotely from @UNCityCPH, @UNDP Global ICT Advisor @GeraldDemeules during his speech stated that "Many people are accelerating the shift from internal combustion engine cars to #Electric Vehicles because green e-mobility is profitable"

#SDG7 #VGI



7 18

UNICEF Namibia @UnicefNamibia · Oct 11

Delegates from #MoHSS, #EoJ & UNICEF, during a joint visit to villages, were able to appreciate community health based interventions provided by #CHW on maternal & newborn care; and had an opportunity to appreciate strides made in addressing #ODF issues through #CLTS programmes



2 5

UNFPA Namibia @UNFPA_Namibia · Oct 11

Today, @UNFPA_Namibia, @UnicefNamibia, @UNESCOWindhoek & @AIESECNamibia joined teachers to conduct lessons on #EqualityEducation, #SDG4, as per World's Largest Lesson Project with students from five schools in Kavango East Region. #GlobalGoals

@JulittaOnabanjo



2 5

UNICEF Namibia @UnicefNamibia · Oct 15

Hon. Juliet Kavetuna, Deputy Minister of #MoHSS together with @gregorvmedeazza, UNICEF Dep.Rep, demonstrates the correct handwashing practice during Namibia's #GlobalHandwashingDay commemoration. #CleanHandsforAll



2 4

FAO Namibia @FAONamibia · Oct 16

The #WorldFoodDay Food Mountain is built with fresh produce donated by local farmers & food products donated by private sector. It symbolizes us galvanizing efforts to fight hunger & leave no one behind

#ZeroHunger



1 1 3

WHO Namibia @WHONAMIBIA · Oct 16

WHO handed over mobile devices to the Ministry of Health and Social Services for polio surveillance at district, regional and national levels.



8 7 21

UN Publications @unpublications

Day 1 #FBM2019: Visit our stand (J 72, Hall 4.2) at the Frankfurt @Book_Fair to learn how the @UN is making an impact around the world and get a free copy of the special edition of the #SDGs booklet. #GlobalGoals #FriedaSDGs #SDGBookClub



You

MONTHLY GOALS

AUGUST - GOAL 13

CLIMATE ACTION

The concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere is the highest it has been in 3 million years. The last four years were the hottest years on record and in many parts of the world, we are already seeing the consequences of global warming with more extreme weather, diminishing Arctic sea ice and rising sea levels.

If we continue along our current path, scientists say that the consequences could be devastating. A 2°C increase could mean more heat waves, a ten-fold increase in Arctic ice-free summers and a complete wipe-out of the world's coral reefs, home to millions of species.

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/>



SEPTEMBER - ALL SDGs

The world's most vulnerable are bearing the brunt of conflict, inequality, injustice and environmental degradation – 70 million people fled war, persecution and conflict in 2018; at least half the world's population do not have access to essential health services; and some 29.3% of the population of small island states live at less than five meters above rising sea-levels.

Action is being taken to address these challenges. Investment in inclusive and sustainable economies can unleash significant opportunities for shared prosperity. Political, technological and financial solutions are within our reach. But much greater leadership and rapid, unprecedented changes are needed to realize the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>



**LEAVE
NO ONE
BEHIND**

OCTOBER - GOAL 1 AND GOAL 2

NO POVERTY AND ZERO HUNGER

The pace of poverty reduction is slowing down and current projections suggest that 6% of the world's population will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030, missing the target of the first Sustainable Development Goal.

And despite earlier extended progress on Goal 2 – Zero Hunger – the number of people suffering from hunger has been on the rise for the third consecutive year. An estimated 821 million people were undernourished in 2017, up from 784 million in 2015. The proportion of stunted children has been declining since 2000, but 22% of children under 5 years of age were still chronically undernourished in 2018.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>



PUZZLES

Can you name the indigenous trees?



Send your answers to: unic.windhoek@unic.org



Selfie Corner!

Do you read the [UN Namibia Newsletter](#)? Send us an action selfie reading the Newsletter and you could be featured in our next edition.

E-mail your selfies to: unic.windhoek@unic.org

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CLIMATE ACTION
 NAMIBIA
 NO POVERTY
 PARTNERSHIPS

SDG
 TOGETHER
 UNITED NATIONS
 ZERO HUNGER

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