

# COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMME

## WINDHOEK INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

### COVID-19 AND INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

Windhoek's informal settlements with more than 180,000 residents are likely to be the first and hardest hit by COVID-19 over the coming weeks in terms of health, and then also economically as the crisis will unfold.

The most important COVID-19 preventive measures are difficult to adhere in these areas: high population densities make social distancing difficult, and limited access to water and a general lack of good sanitation practices provide challenges for frequent hand washing. Poverty and very limited resources will not allow for people to stay at their homes as may be requested when lock-down measures come into effect.

### COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMME

As the COVID-19 is getting a foothold in Namibia, Development Workshop Namibia (DWN) and the Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE) are changing operational priorities, re-routing resources towards a COVID-19 emergency response programme with a specific focus on Windhoek's informal settlements.

The infrastructure for the emergency programme has been developed through a Community Led Total Sanitation programme, implemented over the last 8 months in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) and the City of Windhoek (CoW), and supported by UNICEF, UNDP, the Debmarine-Namdeb Foundation, FirstRand Foundation and Japanese Embassy.

This programme infrastructure consists of a partner network, DWN staff and 100+ trained community based volunteers.

### WHAT IS CURRENTLY BEING DONE

#### **1. Dissemination of information**

We are in the process of printing 10,000 pamphlets and 5,000 MoHSS approved posters on COVID-19 preventive measures and start with distribution on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Distribution will take place through different channels, including taxis, city buses, supermarkets, shops, shebeens and other public places.

#### **2. Hand washing**

We are preparing a first batch of 2000 handwashing kits ('tippy taps') that we will distribute with 2-liter units of concentrated liquid soap. The kits will be distributed

together with installation guidelines (pamphlet, currently being printed). This activity will initiate Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March.



**Tippy tap in use in the Havana informal settlement**

#### **3. Preparation of mobile teams**

20 mobile teams are being prepared and trained, constituting members of the local community volunteers from the sanitation programme. 20 megaphones have been ordered from South Africa, and as soon as we have enough protective equipment these teams will start touring the informal settlement, providing information to local residents. This activity is planned to initiate on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

### SUPPORT NEEDED

In a first phase, we aim to distribute at least 20,000 hand washing units, distribute 50,000 pamphlets and put up 10,000 posters. At the same time, the 20 mobile units need subsidies, transport and safety equipment. High quality face masks and hand sanitizing liquids are urgently needed, and difficult to source. A total of NAD 5 million are needed for this first phase.

Following organisations have quickly responded on a first call for support on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March:

- **Debmarine-Namdeb Foundation:** pledge for NAD 300,000
- **B2Gold:** donation of 150 face masks
- **GIZ** (exact contribution being evaluated)
- **FirstRand Foundation** (exact contribution being evaluated)