

# 2021 ANNUAL UPDATE



DW DEVELOPMENT  
WORKSHOP  
**CHILDREN**

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During 2021, Development Workshop Namibia (DWN) implemented an Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme in Windhoek, Oshakati, Katima Mulilo, Otjiwarongo, Omaruru and Opuwo.

- It provided assistance to a total of 229 ECD centres, 497 educators (ECD teachers) and some 8,800 children.
- The programme was supported by UNICEF, EU, MTC, Twin Hills Trust and Capricorn Foundation.

**It achieved following key results during 2021:**

1. **Learning materials:** 1,142,700 pages of home-based learning activities printed, plus 57,000 copies of books and booklets, including 4 new DWN publications (such as the Children's Picture Atlas of Namibia) and 30 booklets adapted from open sources;
2. **Trainings:** 36 trainings implemented, benefitting 497 educators;
3. **Parents engagement:** 82 parents workshops implemented;
4. **Nutrition:** over 950,000 meals provided at 135 ECD centres in Windhoek to more than 5,200 children, and 7,150 meals provided at 4 ECD centres in Omaruru to 130 children.



## DWN'S ECD PROGRAMME

By assisting ECD centres in informal settlements, DWN supports the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children in Namibia's towns. Studies from across the world show that **investment in ECD is one of the most effective and cost-effective strategies for societies to develop the human capital required to advance economic and social development.**

It is for this reason that ECD is one of the key pillars of the **Harambee Prosperity Plan 2 (HPP2)**.

DWN works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MGEPESW) and Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC). In alignment with government policies, DWN is in the process of developing a sustainable support network for ECD centres in disadvantaged communities.



ECD centre in Oshakati

The programme focuses on **5 specific areas of intervention:**

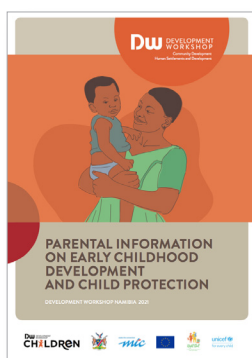
1. Development of learning and teaching materials
2. Educarer training
3. Parent engagement
4. Nutrition and feeding
5. ECD centre infrastructure improvements

## RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2021

### LEARNING AND TEACHING MATERIALS

DWN developed several publications, including a Children's Picture Atlas of Namibia. It also used open source libraries to draw on existing literature and translate/adapt it for the Namibian context.

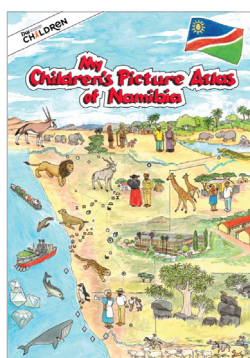
#### Publications developed by DWN and printed during 2021:



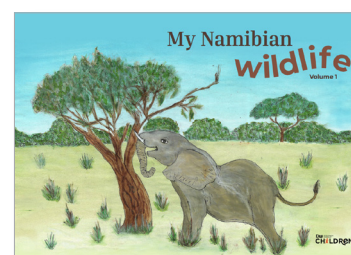
Parental information booklet: **5,000 copies**



Learning at home guide: **5,000 copies**



Children's Atlas of Namibia: **15,000 copies**



Namibia Wildlife for Children: **2,000 copies**

Adapted and translated: 30 different children books, with 30,000 copies printed.

Additionally, DWN distributed more than 1.1 million pages of printed learning at home materials to ECD centres and parents, plus stationary packs with more than 17,000 items.

All publications can be downloaded in pdf from DWN's website: [www.dw-namibia.org/publications](http://www.dw-namibia.org/publications)



## TRAINING

A long-term training programme is fundamental to continuously increase the capacity of educators in disadvantaged communities. In close collaboration and alignment with the line ministries' curricula, DWN implemented following trainings during 2021:

### ECD foundational training (5 days)

- A total of **36 trainings** implemented, benefitting **497 educators**
- A comprehensive facilitators manual and a **participant manual** currently being developed and to be published in March 2022

This **hands-on and interactive training** covers topics such as holistic child development, learning through play, planning and assessment, parental support and classroom management.

### Safety & fire training (2 days): 12 training sessions, benefitting 138 educators

**Support visits: Providing follow up support to ECD educators is as important as the trainings itself.** DWN staff did a total of 260 support visits and provided on-the-job training at the ECD centres.



Educator training

## PARENT SUPPORT

The educational support that parents provide to their children is fundamentally important. However, much too often parents have the belief that all the teaching and learning is done at ECD centres and schools alone.

Through **parents workshops**, the programme sensitizes parents about the importance of home based learning, including positive discipline, responsive care, the importance of early learning and what parents can do at home to engage with their children. **82 parental**

**workshops** were implemented in 2021 and attended by some 1,700 parents.

A **parental information booklet** has been produced and 5,000 copies printed for distribution during workshops.

A **learning at home guide** with some 200 interactive activities for children aged 0-6 years has also been developed, and 5,000 copies printed for distribution to parents.

## CASH BASED FEEDING PROGRAMME

The programme developed and tested an efficient cash-based feeding methodology for ECD centres. In Windhoek, 135 ECD centres participated in this pilot initiative as follows:

1. DWN opened a bank account for each ECD centre and provided nutrition training to educators;
2. Each ECD centre received a monthly cash transfer, based on the registered number of children (NAD 135/child/month);
3. ECD educators could purchase goods locally and prepare the meals following a meal plan and guidelines provided by DWN. Expenditures and meal plans were closely monitored by DWN staff.

**Over 950,000 meals were provided to more than 5,200 children at 135 ECD centres in Windhoek from May to November 2021.** In Omaruru, an adjusted methodology using e-wallet provided **7,150 meals to 130 children.**



Feeding programme





An official from the Ministry of Gender inspecting newly built toilets

### PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT OF ECD CENTRES

Many ECD centres in the informal settlements have no access to sanitation, forcing children to practice open defecation as for example in nearby river beds. This exposes children to diseases and harassment.

During 2021, the programme invested in the construction of safe toilets at 18 ECD centres, and hand washing facilities were set up at more than 50 ECD centres in Windhoek.

In Omaruru, 4 ECD centres received different forms of assistance such as toilet facilities, classroom extension and playground improvements.



ECD centre library box hand over in Omaruru: A total of 4 library boxes were distributed in Omaruru and 2 in Bethanie (Karas Region)



Resources made with some of the stationary items provided by the programme



ECD educator engaging children in different learning activities



Children playing at an ECD centre in Oshakati



An educator engaged with children while reading a story to them