

2021 ANNUAL UPDATE

PROGRAMME FOR APPROPRIATE LOW-COST URBAN SANITATION



DW DEVELOPMENT
WORKSHOP
SANITATION

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The sanitation programme is implemented by Development Workshop Namibia (DWN), in partnership with the Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE) and UNICEF.

It uses an approach called **Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)**. CLTS is an internationally acclaimed methodology to improve sanitation in poor communities. It is fully endorsed by the Namibian Government and promoted through the Harambee Prosperity Plan II.

During 2021, the programme has been implemented in the informal settlements of 9 towns. Following were the key achievements by the end of 2021:

1. **A network of some 100 volunteers** conducted more than 25,000 household visits and distributed over 100,000 flyers;
2. **45 demonstration toilets** built;
3. **7 solid waste collection points constructed**, including two **recycling stations**;
4. **A social enterprise** approach tested to ensure sustainability of the programme.

Main donors:



Other donors



The overall aim of the sanitation programme is to work towards making Namibia's informal settlements Open Defecation Free (ODF). It uses following approach and tools:

APPROACH

1. **Local Authority (LA) and DWN joint planning:** The local authority and DWN agree how the project is to be implemented and the types of toilets residents are allowed to build;
2. **ODF block boundary demarcation:** The project team decides on the boundary of a so called "ODF block" within an informal settlement. The boundary usually is equal to an administrative boundary;
3. **ODF tools:** The programme uses two main intervention strategies that are then applied within the ODF block: sanitation infrastructure & enterprises, and volunteers. The two interventions complement each other:
 - a. Sanitation infrastructure & enterprises: these are sanitation centres, demonstration toilets, solid waste collection points, recycling stations, jack hammer units and brick making units;
 - b. Volunteers: Volunteers implement awareness raising campaigns, encouraging residents to build toilets (per household or pooling resources among multiple households), and assist in the functioning of the sanitation enterprises.
4. **Towards ODF:** with sanitation enterprises operating and volunteers making intensive house to house visits, open defecation becomes less and less within the ODF block.



National verification team from different ministries, verifying the ODF area in Oniipa

5. **Verification:** once the area becomes ODF, the project team makes a three-step verification:
 - a. First by the DWN project team;
 - b. Second by inviting members from another community (peer review);
 - c. Third by the national ODF committee, constituted by members of different Government Ministries.

By the end of 2021, the programme had 16 areas that were either declared ODF or were in the process of being declared. Another 15 areas were in the process of demarcation to initiate with CLTS activities in early 2022.

TOOLS

1. **VOLUNTEERS:** They are the backbone of the project. On a daily basis, they visit households, distribute flyers and encourage residents to build toilets, ensure safe water storage, and practice regular handwashing.
 - ➔ *Some 100 volunteers have conducted more than 25,000 house visits during 2021*
2. **DEMONSTRATION TOILETS:** These serve to showcase how to build cost-efficient and safe toilets. The project usually builds them either at kindergartens where the children benefit from the toilet, or well circulated places where they can be used as pay-to-use public toilets.
 - ➔ *By the end of 2021, the programme has built a total of 45 demonstration toilets*
3. **SOLID WASTE COLLECTION POINTS:** Solid waste pollution is a massive problem in informal settlements. It mixes with open defecation and therefore needs to be addressed as part of the CLTS approach. DWN has developed a model of managed waste collection points:
 - The collection point is fenced off, a toilet and vendor stall constructed. A hired caretaker makes a living from the pay-to-use toilet and selling her/his products, at the same time ensuring that waste is deposited properly. An agreement with the local authority ensures regular pick up of waste.
 - ➔ *By end of 2021, the programme has constructed 7 collection points*



Clean up campaign in Otjiwarongo



Community leader's meeting in Oshakati



Swakopmund Sanitation centre

- 4. **Recycling:** Much of the waste in informal settlements is recyclable, including cans, bottles and plastic. The programme has experimented with two recycling stations attached to a solid waste connection point, with very encouraging results. This pilot experience has been guided and very generously supported by the Recycle Namibia Forum (RNF).
- 5. **Latrine building support:** the programme invested into several small enterprises that support the growing toilet building market: 1 brick making unit, 4 jack hammer units (where pits need to be dug in rock), and training (local brick layers);



Volunteers engaging residents in Otjiwarongo and Swakopmund

Local Authority buy-in

The local authorities of Swakopmund, Oniipa and Oshakati have all indicated that they will provide funds to construct more sanitation centres. This support is very encouraging and will help to address open defecation in the respective informal settlements.



Inauguration of the sanitation centre in Swakopmund by the Mayor

Toilet construction monitoring

An important indicator of success is the number of toilets being built by residents. This is done using the Geographic Information System (GIS). Staff and volunteers take positions of newly built toilets with a GPS app on a cell phone, checking the same area on regular intervals. For example:

- ➔ **Windhoek:** project area includes 10,500 shacks. 1319 new toilets have been initiated and/or finalized by residents in 2021
- ➔ **Otjiwarongo:** the project area includes 407 informal houses, and more than 120 new toilets have been constructed or are being built



New waste collection point in Otjiwarongo

Namibia Sanitation Social Enterprise

The programme is showing very encouraging results how to effectively address open defecation in Namibia’s informal settlements. Over the last 2 years, the CLTS methodology has been refined and adjusted, and is incrementally being scaled to other towns in the country. Challenges however remain formidable: decades of underinvestment in urban sanitation require appropriate resources to address the challenge. More funds and attention need to be given to urban sanitation, towards creating towns where residents have more equal access to services and opportunities.

Equally, with the currently very limited resources, it is paramount to use them effectively and sustainably. This also applies to investments done by this programme. **DWN therefore is establishing a sanitation social enterprise.**

Based on experiences gained over the last two years, this enterprise will become a business incubator for sanitation related businesses in informal settlements. Through such an approach, donor funds for urban sanitation can be applied much more sustainably, investing into self-sustaining and employment creating enterprises. As from early 2022, efforts are underway to create a business model and to seek funds for this enterprise.



Otjiwarongo waste collection point sign



Tuck shop at solid waste collection point



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