

# UPDATE

## PROGRAMME FOR APPROPRIATE LOW-COST URBAN SANITATION



DW DEVELOPMENT  
WORKSHOP  
**SANITATION**

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Having access to sanitation is a basic human right. Yet a large number of people living in the slums and informal settlements in Southern Africa have no toilets and are obliged to defecate in open spaces in their neighbourhoods. This results in disease and environmental pollution, and puts women and children at increased risk of assault.

Local authorities often struggle to provide the necessary infrastructure to improve sanitary conditions in these areas. Development Workshop Namibia (DWN) has therefore taken a bottom-up, Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach that supports and encourages residents to build their own safe toilets and to clean up their immediate surroundings.

**OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS:**



## 1. OVERVIEW

DWN manages the CLTS programme in partnership with the Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and in close collaboration with government and local authorities. The European Union, UNICEF and the German Development Bank (KfW) provide financial support.

CLTS currently operates in nine towns. In each town, the main objective is to make all informal settlements Open Defecation Free (ODF). This is done by working in smaller blocks within each settlement to reach and then maintain ODF status. DWN teams in each town seek to achieve the following activities:

**1. Block demarcation:** The boundaries of a new block to be made ODF are established;

**2. Sanitation centres built:** Demonstration toilets (or sanitation centres) are built to provide an example how to build a cost effective and safe toilet;

**3. Awareness raising:** Volunteers working with the programme raise awareness to improve

hygiene practices (such as regular hand washing) and stimulate the construction of toilets. They go from house to house, holding informal conversations with residents and distributing leaflets;

**4. Verification:** Once a block has become ODF, it is first verified within the programme through a DWN peer review process, then externally by the Government’s national ODF committee.

CLTS is built on collaboration. The programme works closely with local authorities, the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform. DWN team members are actively engaged with the national Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) Forum and participate in the national clean-up campaign.

## 2. EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS, JULY TO DECEMBER 2022

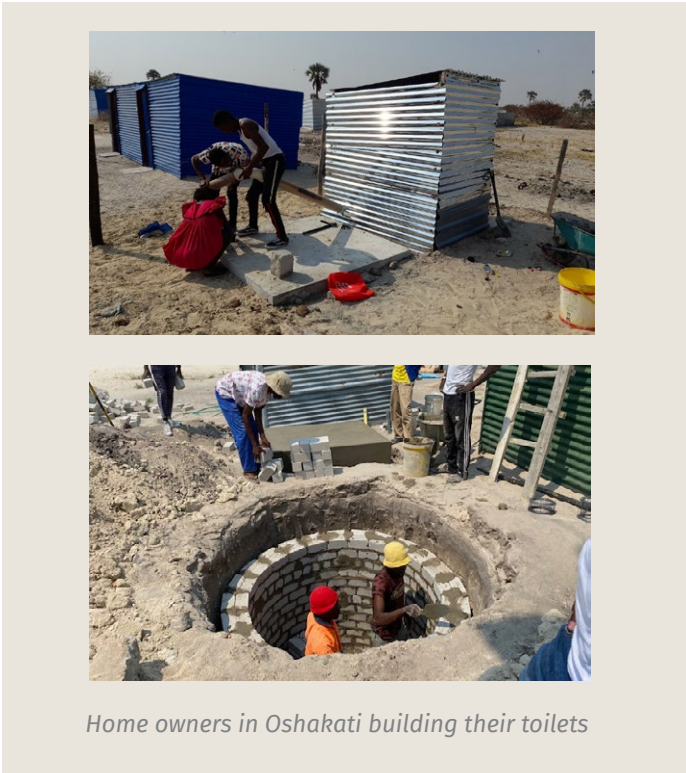
### Making Informal Settlements Open Defecation Free (ODF)

In the nine towns where the CLTS project is active, the communities achieved ODF status in **13 areas by the end of 2022**, with an estimated population of **68,000 informal settlement residents**. An additional 15 areas are in the process of becoming ODF, and another 17 areas planned for 2023.

The current participating towns are **Windhoek, Oshakati, Ondangwa, Karibib, Swakopmund, Oniipa, Katima Mulilo, Otjiwarongo and Opuwo**.

### Toilet construction

By December 2022, residents in CLTS project areas had constructed a total of **5,254 toilets**. These new toilets provide access to safe sanitation to more than **7,000 families** or **22,000 residents**.



### Sanitation centres

From June to December 2022 an additional **8 sanitation centres** have been built at Early Childhood Development centres (i.e. kindergartens) and in public spaces within informal settlements. These centres include a demonstration toilet to guide and incentivize local residents to build their own toilets. Since its inception, the project has built **66 sanitation centres** in the nine towns.

Whenever a sanitation centre is built, 3-5 local brick-layers are trained in the process. To date, more than **323 local brick-layers** have been trained. These newly skilled workers can offer their services to other residents to assist with building their toilets.

The sanitation centres, newly built toilets and ODF areas can be monitored on our DWN online interactive map here: <https://development-workshop-data-hub-dwn.hub.arcgis.com/>

### Project visit of members of the German Parliament

Six members of the German Parliament visited the project on 1st October 2022 in Windhoek's Hadino Hishongwa informal settlement. The parliamentarians had the opportunity to talk to project volunteers and local residents in the informal settlement and to get a better understanding of the sanitation challenges in this area.



Clean up campaign

### Clean up campaign

A clean-up campaign was implemented on the 28th October 2022 in Brendan Simbwaye near Havanna primary school, Windhoek, in collaboration with the Finnish Embassy EU Namibia and the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia.

### Namene solar lights sales

The CLTS volunteers are provided with a small stipend. To help boost their income, DWN entered an agreement with Namene solar lights for the volunteers to sell these products to informal settlement residents on days when they are not raising awareness for CLTS. By December 2022, the 59 sanitation volunteers sold **31,409 solar lights**. For each sale, they received a commission of N\$ 15. In total, the volunteers earned N\$ 471,135, at an average of **N\$ 7,985 per volunteer**. Increased income boosts the volunteer's morale and increases their commitment to the project.



DWN volunteer selling a solar light to a local resident

### Community enterprises

The project continues to support several community-based enterprises that provide income to a local enterprise operator, who provides a public service related to our overall goal. By December 2022, the enterprises included:

- **3 jack hammer operators**, digging latrine pits for local residents that live in areas with rocky substrates;
- **2 recycling centres** operated in informal settlements with recyclables collected by the company Rent-a-Drum;
- **13 business stalls** attached to pay-to-use toilets that form part of sanitation centres. The business stall operator is also responsible for toilet maintenance and collects fees from users.



City of Windhoek truck at the project's waste collection point, picking up collected waste

### 3. PORTRAIT

#### FROM COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER TO ENTREPRENEUR

**Frieda Uuta** is a resident of Okarevona informal settlement in Oniipa and the mother of one child. She became a DWN Covid-19 and sanitation volunteer in 2020 and is still one of four DWN CLTS volunteers in Oniipa. Because of her commitment to the programme she was selected to operate the business stall at the DWN waste collection site.



A new toilet at an ECD centre in Oniipa



Business stall by the waste collection point in Oniipa



Recycling in informal settlements



“Through the programme I have adapted various ways of sharing information with the community and solving difficult situations that require a deeper understanding of where the problem really is”

### CONCLUSION

Through the CLTS project, community members in informal settlements across Namibia have started to take ownership of the sanitation situation in their areas. With support from DWN and collaboration from government and non-government partners, communities have become Open Defecation Free. Local volunteers and entrepreneurs have been provided training and opportunities to increase their income while working towards the overall goal of creating cleaner, safer urban environments.

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