

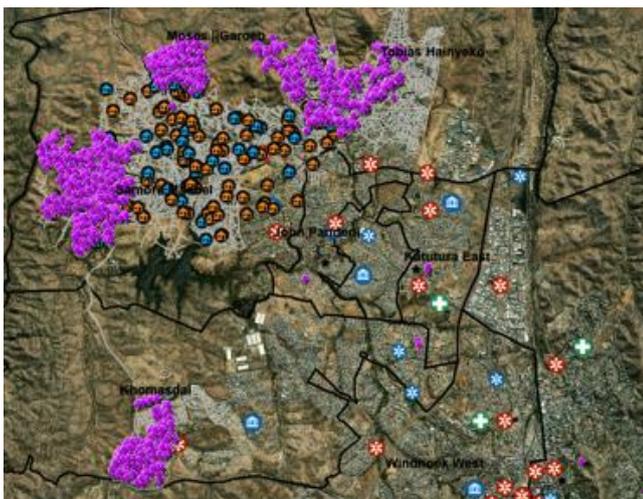
UPDATE 27 APRIL 2020

# COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMME

## WINDHOEK INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS AND BEYOND

Cases of Covid-19 continue to increase worldwide and it remains an on-going threat to Namibian people, particularly the most vulnerable. Those living in crowded informal settlements in unhygienic conditions are likely to be the hardest hit by the virus. It is therefore imperative to ensure that preventative measures are in place to improve sanitation and hygiene in these areas before the virus spreads further into the country. Residents of informal settlements are hard-pressed to abide by lockdown conditions due to economic hardships and consequent lack of food, forcing them to go to work and put themselves at risk.

The Tippy Tap project launched by Development Workshop Namibia (DWN) and the Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE) within Windhoek's informal settlements has continued according to plan. As per Monday 27th April, 6,353 of the target 20,000 Tippy Taps have been installed in the Samora Machel, Moses Garoeb, Tobias Hainyeko, and Khomasdal constituencies. Each volunteer team is equipped with a handheld GPS unit, which they use to mark the locations of Tippy Taps and kindergartens (see map). Our team updates this map on a regular basis, allowing our partners and supporters to track our progress over time.



Each Tippy Tap (purple dot) and kindergarten (house icon) is mapped by our teams and their data entered on a public website - <https://arq.is/1nG1r80>.

Tippy Taps have been constructed at roadblocks and homeless shelters upon request. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform requested Tippy Taps at all police and army roadblocks on the border of Khomas region, while the City of Windhoek requested them for homeless shelters.

We are starting to scale up the project to towns in other regions of Namibia. Thus far, we have held meetings with the relevant government and traditional authorities in Otjiwarongo, Otavi, Kalkveld and Omatjete. With support from B2Gold, the DWN/NCE programme will initiate construction of a minimum of 5,000 tippy taps on Tuesday 28 April in informal settlements in these locations.



A young Tippy Tap user demonstrates how to use it

Open defecation also poses a severe health threat to those living in informal settlements. Our sanitation project therefore aims to improve access to toilets and thus reduce open defecation. Like many other diseases (e.g. Hepatitis E), Covid-19 can be transmitted through faeces. While this has not been an issue for European countries or the USA, approximately 50% of residents of informal settlement residents in Namibia practice open defecation due to the lack of toilet facilities. Prior to the Covid-19 outbreak, we established a number of sanitation centres in Windhoek that demonstrated the construction of on-site sanitation facilities for residents. This approach has now been adapted to the emergency circumstances and is scaled rapidly to reach to more informal settlements in Windhoek and other towns.

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