



COMMUNITY WELFARE 2024 UPDATE



Dw DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
COMMUNITY WELFARE

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INTRODUCTION

In Namibia, informal dwellings or shacks make up 29% of households, 40% of which are in urban areas. People living in informal settlements often lack access to essential services such as safe toilets, water, and electricity, making them more vulnerable to diseases, especially young children. According to the 2023 Census, 40% of households in Namibia do not have access to toilets, with diarrhoea being the third-most common cause for hospital attendance in Windhoek (Weber & Mendelson, 2017, p23). This is a strong indicator of the profound negative impact of these sanitary conditions on informal settlement residents, adding an additional burden to the already poor and vulnerable communities. The DWN Community Welfare pillar educates, informs and empowers people in informal settlements, enabling them to implement change in their own lives.

Behavioural change requires consistent actions and initiatives to be fully effective, thus the Community Welfare programme, with the people it serves, local authorities and external partners, implement various activities such as the construction of sanitation centres, clean-up campaigns and solid waste management.

OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS:



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) MASS CAMPAIGN

With the objective of behavioural change to address open defecation, DWN conducted a mass campaign over a period of four months from May 2024 to August 2024, informing and educating communities on WASH issues and practices. Over 60 DWN Community Outreach Workers in eight towns led the campaign. The campaign activities consisted of house-to-house visits during which issues on water, sanitation, menstrual hygiene

and solid waste management were discussed, and households were given information brochures in English as well as local languages.

This tailored approach enabled DWN to deliver personalised messages to various communities, resulting in the outcomes outlined below. The significance of such efforts was further emphasised by the findings of the 2023 Census, which revealed only an 8% increase in toilet construction between 2011 and 2023.



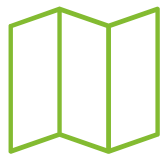
2024 RESULTS AT A GLANCE



161,967
people reached



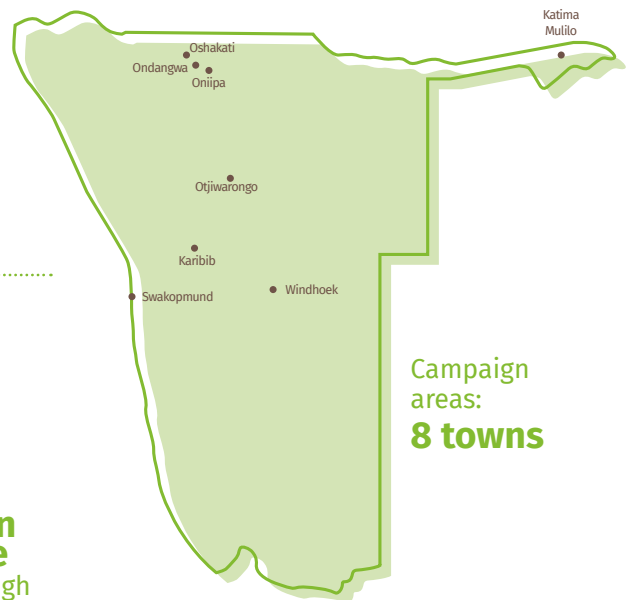
39,689
households reached



166,379 local language materials distributed during campaign



1.7 million audience reached through media



Campaign areas:
8 towns

DWN also utilised mass media during the wash campaign, with appearances on national television and radio interviews on popular stations such as Omulunga and Fresh FM.



- Radio interviews
- Documentary airing on national television
- Social media engagements
- Panel discussions

Some interesting reflections from this process:

- For many of the men involved this was the first open discussion they have ever had about menstruation and dignified, hygienic management of menstruation.
- Many people were not aware that they could make money from recycling, and in the process, they learned how to do so.
- Community members voiced their growing realisation about the importance of safe toilets for health and hygiene.

CONSTRUCTION OF SANITATION CENTRES

With KfW funding, the programme has identified 30 Early Childhood Development Centres across the country to receive newly built sanitation centres. Construction is already in progress and is scheduled for completion by February 2025.



RECYCLING HEROES TRAININGS

Development Workshop Namibia has partnered with the Recycle Forum with financial support from CocaCola Namibia to train unemployed female Namibians of all ages. This was done to address mismanagement of waste in informal communities while empowering these women by giving them an income from collecting and sorting recyclables. The opening of Coca Cola and Plastic Packaging’s new recycling plant for Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET), is going to transform recycling in Namibia. This material, which is used to package the products such as bottled water, is now worth more, thus creating more income opportunities. The trained participants received a starter pack consisting of a hat, gloves and reflective jacket, as well as a recycling guide which highlights the types of materials to recycle, sorting processes and information about recycling business across the country. Trainings like this one create awareness about the value of recycling and contribute to uplifting communities by reducing dumping of solid waste, thus contributing to a cleaner and healthier environment.

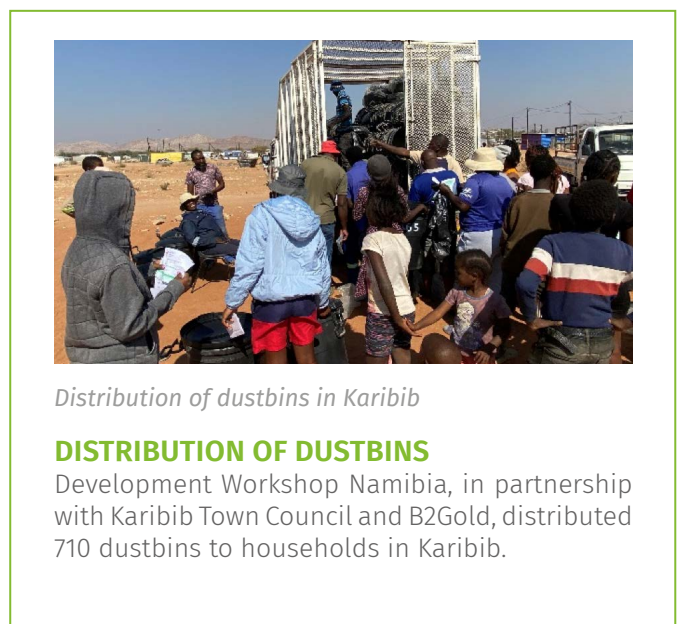
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

In Namibia, informal settlements face considerable challenges in solid waste management. These areas frequently lack sufficient infrastructure and formal waste collection services with only 64% of households in urban areas having access to regular waste collection services, with the rest resorting to other means such as such as open dumping (23%) and burning of waste (24%). This situation presents significant environmental and public health risks, including pollution and the potential spread of diseases.

DWN collaborates closely with various local authorities nationwide to enhance solid waste management through a range of initiatives. These include community outreach programmes aimed at raising awareness about proper waste disposal, promoting household/community recycling, and organising clean-up campaigns. Additionally, DWN actively engages relevant stakeholders in the solid waste management sector through partnerships and initiatives like the Recycling Heroes project, aimed at improving waste management in informal settlements.



Clean-up campaign in Oniipa



Distribution of dustbins in Karibib

DISTRIBUTION OF DUSTBINS

Development Workshop Namibia, in partnership with Karibib Town Council and B2Gold, distributed 710 dustbins to households in Karibib.



151 recycling heroes trained



290 ton recycle waste collected by previously trained recycling heroes in 2024.

27 clean-up campaigns

8 towns

- Karibib
- Katima Mulilo
- Oniipa
- Ondangwa
- Otjiwarongo
- Oshakati
- Swakopmund
- Windhoek

CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGNS

A clean environment is critical for a healthy community, and is part of the assessment criteria for areas to be declared Open Defecation Free (ODF). The DWN Community Outreach Workers mobilised their communities and organised a total of 27 clean-up campaigns across the country this year. Through partnerships with local businesses and local authorities, initiatives like this one ensure healthier communities.



TOILET MONITORING

DWN is committed to accurate data for monitoring and planning. Toilet monitoring at DWN is a critical component of its Community Welfare Programme, utilising geographic information system (GIS) technology to track and assess sanitation initiatives. This involves mapping the status of toilets, including those already existing, as well as those that have been newly constructed or upgraded through the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) programme. This is done by categorising toilets based on construction phases, safety and quality standards. DWN uses this information to identify areas with high open defecation rates, to prioritise interventions such as awareness raising campaigns and additional construction. An interactive GIS map is then developed at the end of this process to enable DWN to track progress toward achieving Open Defecation Free status, measure programme impact, and identify areas requiring targeted interventions like awareness campaigns.



Rosalia Martin - Community Outreach Worker in Windhoek"

COMMUNITY CASE STUDY

The solid waste management component of the programme has led to a visible improvement in the cleanliness of Rosalia’s neighbourhood. “This has made the community really clean with not lots of waste around,” she says, crediting the programme with raising awareness about proper waste disposal. Recycling, which was once uncommon, is now a widespread practice in her area.

CONCLUDING NAMENE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

The sale of Namene solar lights was a collaborative initiative between Development Workshop Namibia and Namene Solar. Community Outreach Workers led the sales, providing them with an opportunity to earn extra income. This initiative has enabled unelectrified communities to continue their activities after nightfall, including study and housework, as well as reducing reliance on candles which can cause fires, and reducing the risk of burglary as homes are well-lit. Additionally, it has promoted cleaner, more climate-friendly living through the use of renewable energy. Since the partnership began in 2022, a total of 66,028 Namene solar lights have been sold.

TO LEARN MORE:

learn more from our new website: <https://dw-namibia.org/welfare/> You can also view our “Tale of Two Cities” Documentary on the site. Documentary screenings are taking place across the country, together with discussion and Q&A sessions with local and community leadership.

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