



COMMUNITY WELFARE 2023 UPDATE



Selection process of vulnerable households in Harambee, Karibib to receive pit latrines as a way to commemorate World Toilet Day 2023

Dw DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

COMMUNITY WELFARE

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INTRODUCTION

The Development Workshop Namibia (DWN) Community Welfare pillar works to empower communities towards a more dignified life in the informal settlements of Namibia, in a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

The activities under this pillar include sanitation, social enterprise, and solid waste. These activities work together to support community members to improve their own surroundings and opportunities, be it through construction of toilets, starting a tuck shop business, or selling sorted recycling.

The Community Welfare pillar aims for sustainable development, including a strong environmental component, with the communities affected at the centre.

OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS:



1. SANITATION

AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS

An integral part of the DWN community-led total sanitation (CLTS) initiative is awareness-raising campaigns. These campaigns work through community outreach workers (CWS) to educate and engage their peers in adopting improved sanitation practices. They use a variety of methods to disseminate information, including community meetings, house-to-house visits, and clean-up campaigns.



CLTS, DWN and Town Council team during the community triggering meeting at Sky Extensions 5 and 6 (Onawa) on 28 October 2023



The community members of Moses //Garob in Max Mutongolume participated in a very successful clean-up campaign with the support of DWN CLTS and Sanitation team as well as the City of Windhoek Solid Waste Department, on 14 October 2023



Toilet monitoring Harambee, Karibib

SANITATION CENTRES

Sanitation is fundamental to human health and well-being. It is crucial for maintaining a clean environment and preventing diseases. These centres serve as a hub for community members to learn about and adopt improved sanitation practices. They also serve as a model for effective waste management systems within the community.

THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH WORKERS

DWN engages with informal settlement residents through Community Outreach Workers (COW, formerly known as volunteers). These workers, well-known in their communities, conduct household visits, educating residents about sanitation and encouraging the construction of toilets. The total number of unique households visited during 2023 is 4,170 with 2,545 revisits to the same households, bringing the total number of household visits to 6,715. This intensive engagement ensures the long-lasting impact of sanitation campaigns.

2. SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

To enhance sustainability in informal settlements, the DWN Community Welfare programme incorporates social enterprise elements such as supporting local businesses that provide public services, helping them generate income while aligning with our main goals. These enterprises include:

- Jackhammers operators; who are employed to aid the community in digging pits. DWN has two jackhammers which are operated by local residents in Windhoek and Karibib where the bedrock is very hard.
- Business Stalls; pay-to-use toilets that are part of sanitation centres. The operators of these stalls are responsible for toilet maintenance and collect fees from users.
- Recycling centers; where recyclable materials are sold. There are two recycling centres in Windhoek.



Zafi, high-quality solar mobile phone charger

SOLAR PRODUCT SALES

To further support the income of volunteers, DWN has a partnership with Namene Solar. The Community Outreach Workers have the opportunity to sell solar lights to residents in informal settlements on days when they are not raising awareness.

SMALL BUSINESS GUIDE

The programme introduced a small business guidebook. This guide provides entrepreneurs and small business owners with practical advice, insights, and tools that can help them understand key principles and increase their chances of success in business. From tips on marketing strategies to financial planning, this small business guide covers a wide range of topics that are essential for running a successful business venture.

3. SOLID WASTE & ENVIRONMENT

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Informal settlements face numerous challenges in the management of solid waste. These include a lack of household-level waste collection services, and dirty neighbourhoods due to the absence of regular cleaning initiatives. In many informal areas, river beds have become commonplace for waste disposal due to a lack of proper waste management. This practice severely affects the ecosystem and poses a threat to public health. It also undermines sanitation activities, in that areas with piles of unmanaged waste cannot be declared open defecation free.

In response to these challenges, our programme introduced a community-based solid waste management approach that encourages community participation and ownership. Recognising the ongoing engagement of local authority in the sustainable management of waste, DWN works closely with municipal representatives throughout. The approach also engages the Community Outreach Workers to reinforce hygiene messages in the community. To further sustainability, opportunities for social enterprise integration are sought, such as the selling of recyclables to secure income for recyclers.

Solid waste management and environment is an area that DWN is actively involved in and looking to grow. The organisation is dedicated to improving current practices, such as waste collection, sorting, and the sale of recyclable materials, in various towns. The activities are already running in Windhoek. To further this goal, DWN recently participated in a number of fora including the 7th Health Environment Water Waste Management forum in Opuwo on 27 October 2023, and at the Environmental Assessment Professionals Association of Namibia (EAPAN) meeting on 2 November 2023. By collaborating with these groups, DWN aims to enhance its solid waste management efforts and implement effective strategies across different regions.



Samora Machel COW and participated in a Clean-up of Brendan Simbwaye 19 October 2023

4. EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

SANITATION DOCUMENTARY LAUNCH

On 24 November 2023, DWN premiered its documentary, *“A Tale of Two Cities,”* highlighting the sanitation struggles in informal settlements. Supported by the Namibia Film Commission, the event featured a screening followed by a Q&A session and a celebration of DWN’s volunteers. Attendees included high-level donors, government representatives, and partners. The film was first shown at the Africa Sanitation Conference in Swakopmund (November 6-11, 2023). DWN plans to screen it nationwide to spark discussions.



Launch of sanitation documentary, on 24 November 2023, in Windhoek

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMME COLLABORATION

DWN’s Community Outreach Workers, actively involved in local communities, understand the challenges at first-hand and communicate effectively with residents. COWs assisted in other programme activities during this period, including parental workshops covering early childhood development (ECD) and sanitation. Upcoming sanitation centres will be built in ECD centers to further enhance coordination.

In October, DWN held a joint ECD and sanitation training, which provided the COW with nuances of their new roles and potential solutions to these challenges.

GOVERNMENT EMBRACING OUR METHODOLOGY

The government recognises the value of DWN’s methodology, and has adopted some approaches in to its own practice.

In commemoration of National Toilet Day on 16 November 2023, the Karibib town council - with support from DWN -

identified four vulnerable households to receive a toilet. The town council covered the cost of materials, and DWN provided assistance by allowing use the DWN jackhammer. DWN’s social entrepreneur jackhammer operator began digging on 11 December. All four toilets have been completed and will be officially handed over to the residents in the coming days.

This builds on similar cases of Oshakati and Swakopmund town councils taking on the CLTS methodology.



12-13 October 2023. Joint Community Outreach Worker workshop: sanitation and ECD.

COMMUNITY WELFARE IN NUMBERS

- **2023, 6,715 household visits**, including 4,170 first-time visits and 2,545 revisits
- **55 sanitation centres** built to-date
- **5,901 latrines** built or improved through CLTS programming to-date
- **374 one-ton bags** of recyclables collected in 2023
- **105 “recycling heroes”** (majority of whom **women**) trained on recycling in Windhoek, Otjiwarongo and Walvis Bay in 2023

TRACK OUR WORK:

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/>

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