



# UPDATE

## PROGRAMME FOR APPROPRIATE LOW-COST URBAN SANITATION



A local dancing troupe celebrates the open defecation free status in Windhoek's Hadino Nghishongwa block.

**DW DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**  
**SANITATION**

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### INTRODUCTION

The safe management of sewage and solid waste is a significant challenge in Namibia's informal settlements, which leads to an elevated risk of disease for children and adults living in these areas. Development Workshop Namibia (DWN) is a pioneer of the urban community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach in Namibia. Through donor support, especially the European Union (EU), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the German Development Bank (KfW), DWN works with communities through local volunteers to inform inhabitants about safe hygiene practices and support the construction of toilets.

The first half of 2023 has seen significant developments within the CLTS programme, with local authorities adopting the methodology, and new blocks becoming open defecation free (ODF).

#### OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS:



# 1. ODF CELEBRATION

On Saturday 22 April 2023, DWN and UNICEF organised an event to celebrate the open defecation free (ODF) status of a block in Windhoek’s informal settlements. The event was attended by almost 800 community members, as well as local collaborators and representatives from government, donors and the media.

Specifically, following representatives attended: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR, Dr. Elijah Ngurare), Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (Mr. Titus Endjala), Ministry of Health and Social Services (Mr. Christopher Likando), UNICEF Representative (Ms. Rachel Odede), EU Ambassador (H.E. Sinikka Antila), City of Windhoek representative (Hon. L. Lombardt), Constituency Councillors from Samora Machel (Hon. Nestor Kalola) and Moses //Garoeb (Hon. Stephanus Ndengu), DWN staff and volunteers.



UNICEF and MAWLR representatives reveal the ODF panel



EU Ambassador delivers her address

# 2. OTHER EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

## RECYCLING GUIDE

DWN developed a recycling guide in collaboration with the Recycle Namibia Form (RNF), with 650 guides already printed. The guide is part of a broader project that aims to foster recycling in informal settlements, through which unemployed women will be trained by DWN – with assistance of community leaders – to collect and sort recyclable waste. The women can earn an income through this work. Three training sessions with 50 participants each are scheduled for Windhoek, Otjiwarongo and Swakopmund this year, with further training sessions planned for 2024.



## MUNICIPALITY ADOPTS CLTS APPROACHES

On 3 May 2023, Swakopmund municipality handed over six sanitation centres to the residents of Democratic Resettlement Community (DRC), the largest informal settlement in Swakopmund. These sanitation centres were based on the UNICEF-funded sanitation centre in Waag-Daar, Swakopmund, which was established by DWN in February 2022. Sanitation centres are part of the CLTS approach, providing an example of a cost-effective and safe toilet. It’s encouraging to observe that local authorities are embracing the CLTS methodology to eliminate open defecation in Namibia.



Swakopmund: Inauguration of sanitation centre

**CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGNS**

During the first half of 2023, the Onawa community in Oshakati united for several clean-up campaigns. One such campaign took place on 18 March, with the involvement of the Oshakati town council. Onawa was rewarded for their active participation with plants, encouraging the community to keep the settlement clean.



*Onawa community members participate in a clean-up campaign*

**SAFE HYGIENE PRACTICES INTO THE FUTURE**

DWN is proud to emphasise a focus on fostering sanitation awareness among the younger generation.

In the first half of 2023, DWN has reached over two hundred young children in and around Onawa through engaging visits to early childhood development (ECD) centres. Volunteers have already noted how engaging the children has improved the sanitation conditions in Onawa.



*Onawa, Oshakati: DWN volunteers teaching children how and when to wash hands.*

**EU DELEGATION IN ONIIPA**



On 29 June 2023, DWN staff and volunteers hosted a group of 12 trainees from the EU headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. The trainees visited the sanitation centre, solid waste collection point, and the business stall in Oniipa, and were shown around the ODF-certified block, Okarevona. Together with representatives from the council, DWN gave the trainees a brief introduction of DWN programmes, with a focus on sanitation and the impact of EU support.

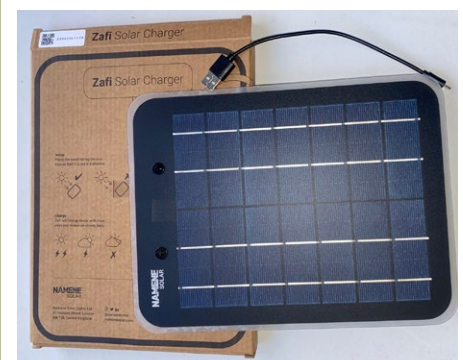


*DW staff member Sam Mengela explaining the project to the EU trainees*

**RENEWABLE ENERGY AND INCOME GENERATION IN THE INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS**

Communities without electricity continue to benefit from the DWN partnership with Namene Solar. In the first half of 2023, 10,122 lights have been sold in informal settlements across nine towns in Namibia for an affordable N\$ 50 each. Furthermore, this partnership provides income for the volunteers who receive a commission on each sale.

DWN is excited to be introducing a new product from Namene Solar in the second half of the year. Zafi is a high-quality solar charger for mobile phones, ensuring those without electricity can continue to communicate, while volunteers will earn through commission.



*Zafi, high-quality solar mobile phone charger*

**UPCOMING DOCUMENTARY FILM**

DWN has been working on the first Namibian urban sanitation documentary. The 30-minute film showcases the urban CLTS programme in the country. It also raises awareness about the sanitation crisis in informal settlements, and serves as a call to action. In the second half of 2023, the documentary will be distributed and screened in various informal settlements, on national television, and as part of panel discussions with sanitation partners and government representatives.



Construction of OTC toilets in progress AUG 2023

**HOW DOES COMMUNITY-LED TOTAL SANITATION (CLTS) WORK?**

DWN manages the CLTS programme in partnership with the Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE) and UNICEF, and in close collaboration with government and local authorities. The programme donors are the EU, UNICEF and KfW.

CLTS currently operates in nine towns. In each town, the main objective is to make all informal settlements open defecation free (ODF). The principle steps are as follows.

- 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 as an example cost-effective and safe toilet.

**3. Awareness raising:** Volunteers 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 depends 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 is actively engaged with the national Water supply and Sanitation (WATSAN) Forum, and participates in the national clean-up campaign.



Sharing sanitation information with children

**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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