UNFPA’s activities in 2018 were anchored on the premise that when the Namibian population suffers from poverty, drought, maternal mortality, teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence among others; it is the young people who suffer most, especially women and adolescent girls. Hence, we worked with a multitude of partners; in particular, young people themselves, to advocate for policies and programmes that invest in and foster a positive environment for them.

We would like to sincerely thank the Government of the Republic of Namibia for its continuous leadership and commitment in investing in this valuable asset, which makes up bulk of the Namibian population. Special gratitude goes to the National Planning Commission for their outstanding coordination of development cooperation. Our sincere thanks also go to our sister United Nations agencies, development partners, implementing partners and civil society organizations for their excellent collaboration, support and technical guidance. It is important that we continue to exchange ideas, build on each other’s strengths and use the platforms we have built together and individually for the good of women and young people, and to realize the goals that we set for ourselves in the 2030 Agenda. Agenda 2030 can only be achieved if we invest in human capital.

2019 opens up a historic opportunity for all of us to renew our joint efforts to improve the lives of women, girls and young people across the country as we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ground breaking International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) which was held in Cairo in 1994. The ICPD articulated a bold new vision about the relationships between population, development and individual well-being with an agenda that emphasizes the value of investing in women and girls as the key to improving the quality of life for everyone.

Yet, 2019 is also the 50th anniversary of UNFPA, another milestone marking progress the organization has made in transforming the lives of women, girls and young people in Namibia and across the globe.

As we close the chapter on our former country programme (2014-2018), we celebrate the achievements made in putting young people at the center of the development agenda in Namibia; and we optimistically usher in a new framework of cooperation (2019-2023) with a renewed commitment to making sure that the rights and choices of women and young people in Namibia are protected and their full potential to be realized.

MESSAGE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Dennia Gayle
Country Representative