

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE





The Namibian President declared a drought-related state of emergency in 2019. In response, World Food Programme (WFP) and UNFPA collaborated to provide drought relief items. This woman received a dignity kit and food parcel at Mbururu health centre in Kavango West Region.



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COVER PHOTO

A UNFPA Namibia team member with a boy using an ox-drawn canoe to collect drought relief food distributed by the World Food Programme and dignity kits from UNFPA.

MESSAGE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE

The impact of COVID-19 both globally and within Namibia has underscored just how important it is to accomplish UNFPA's four transformative goals: zero unmet need for family planning information and services, zero preventable maternal deaths, zero HIV transmissions, and zero sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls. The pandemic, coupled with a drought affecting Namibia has made our work all the more necessary. Yet, even though the pandemic forced us to change some aspects of how we operated, we remained undeterred in our mission - just as we continue to be today.

At the global level, UNFPA has since formed a new High-Level Commission of advocates, experts and activists to help maintain our commitments to women's health and rights made at the November 2019 Nairobi Summit of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25), even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout 2020, UNFPA has also continued to work at the national and community level and has contributed to:

- Donating Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to

the Ministry of Health and Social Services, youth centres and aid groups including Organisation for Empowerment of Widows/Widowers and Orphans of HIV/AIDS and of Persons With Disabilities(OEWONA)

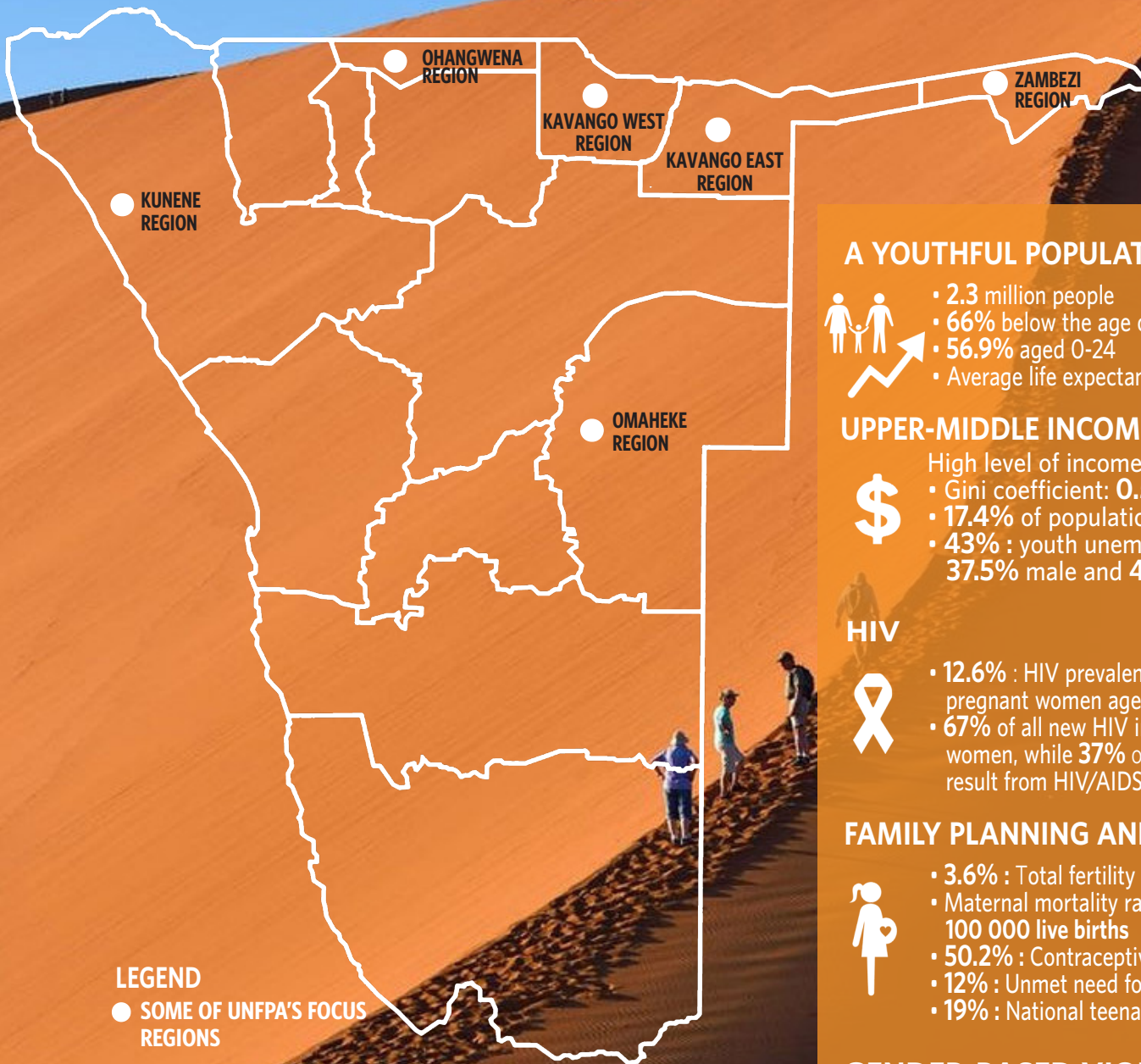
- Dispensing tens of thousands of hygiene kits to vulnerable women and girls across Namibia
- Working with the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare to launch the first ever Child Marriage Report
- Partnering with Mobile Telecom Company (MTC) 's Knockout Project to combat homelessness
- Jointly organising a training workshop with the One Economy Foundation for media professionals regarding best practices to combat gender-based violence (GBV)

These are just a few of the many examples of the work that UNFPA has done over the past year. Though we have had to adjust our outreach during COVID-19, we are hopeful to eventually return to even more in-person events as more people receive their vaccinations. We also will bring a renewed focus of the importance to "build back better" by focusing on reducing the gender inequalities in our society. Whether we are working in person or remotely, UNFPA Namibia remains steadfast in its commitment to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



MS. SHEILA ROSEAU

NAMIBIA AT A GLANCE



LEGEND

- SOME OF UNFPA'S FOCUS REGIONS

DATA AVAILABILITY

- 2011 Census
- 2013 Namibia Demographic Health Survey
- 2015/2016 Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey
- 2016 Namibia Intercensal Demographic Survey
- 2017 Namibia Population-based HIV Impact Assessment

A YOUTHFUL POPULATION



- 2.3 million people
- 66% below the age of 30
- 56.9% aged 0-24
- Average life expectancy: 62.6 years

UPPER-MIDDLE INCOME STATUS



High level of income inequality

- Gini coefficient: 0.59
- 17.4% of population below poverty line
- 43% : youth unemployment (15-34 years), 37.5% male and 49.4% female

HIV



- 12.6% : HIV prevalence rate, 16.9% among pregnant women aged 15 to 49
- 67% of all new HIV infections are among women, while 37% of all maternal deaths result from HIV/AIDS

FAMILY PLANNING AND FERTILITY



- 3.6% : Total fertility rate
- Maternal mortality rate: 385 deaths per 100 000 live births
- 50.2% : Contraceptive prevalence rate
- 12% : Unmet need for family planning
- 19% : National teenage pregnancy rate

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



- 54% of first sexual experiences are unwanted among girls
- 32% of adolescent girls aged 15-19 and 35% of girls aged 20-24 have experienced physical violence from a partner

WHO WE ARE

We are the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency.

Our mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

We work to



end unmet need for family planning



end preventable maternal death



end gender-based violence and harmful practices



end HIV transmissions

OUR PARTNERS

Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS)
Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MGEPESW)
Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service (MSYNS)
Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MOEAC)
National Planning Commission (NPC)
Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA)
National Youth Council (NYC)
Namibia Planned Parenthood Association (NAPPA)
Gender Links
Society for Family Health (SFH)
Regain Trust
One Economy Foundation (ONE)
African Youth and Adolescents Network Namibia (AfriYAN)
Namibian Organisation for Youth with Disabilities (NOYD)
Embassy of Switzerland in South Africa
United Nations (UN) Organisations
Members of the Press
Civil Society Organisations
Parliamentary Committees
Academic and Professional Associations

Thank you for your dedicated partnership. Together, we are emerging stronger and making a meaningful difference for thousands of women, girls and young people across Namibia.

RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

On 17 March 2020, the President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob declared a state of emergency and introduced lock-down measures countrywide following the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. The first confirmed COVID-19 cases (two) were reported on 13 March 2020. By the end of the year, however, COVID-19 had infected about 24,545 people, putting additional pressure on the country's health system.

The UNFPA responded to this unprecedented challenge by collaborating with the government, United Nations sister agencies, various donors, civil society organisations and stakeholders to prevent the spread of the disease, bolster the health system and ensure that the most vulnerable are not left behind.

This work included supporting the continuity of sexual and reproductive health services; gender-based violence prevention and response; risk communication and community engagement; distribution of lifesaving supplies including contraceptives, maternal health drugs and supplies; personal protective equipment (PPE); and youth interventions against COVID-19.



In collaboration with the Society for Family Health (SFH) and the Namibia Planned Parenthood Association (NAPPA), UNFPA conducted mobile outreach in informal settlements and rural areas, serving thousands of young people in need by providing HIV counselling and testing, antiretroviral therapy and pre-exposure prophylaxis. Young people also received sexual and reproductive health services and information, gender-based violence services and referral for further services.



126 512

people reached through mobile clinics with SRH & HIV services



112 517

condoms distributed



1 762

young people tested for HIV,
7 tested positive and linked to care



94

young people enrolled on
pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)

PROCUREMENT OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

As the COVID-19 outbreak unfolded in Namibia at the beginning of the year, it became clear that supplies were a central component of the response, especially personal protective equipment (PPE), to **safeguard the health of frontline workers**. To support the initial response in Namibia, UNFPA procured and donated PPE to the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

18,539 GLOVES 

8,000 DISPOSABLE GOWNS 

18,540 HEAD COVERS 

18,540 SHOE COVERS 

18,540 SURGICAL RESPIRATORS 

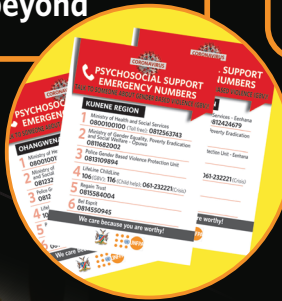
6,000 GOGGLES 



16 adolescents and young people produced #YouthAgainst COVID-19 videos in **8** local languages including sign language, which were aired on national television.



4 960 fact sheets printed and distributed for service providers (health, education, police and psycho-social) to identify, manage and refer victims of GBV during COVID-19 and beyond



2 000 reusable face masks donated to the Organisation for Empowerment of Widows/Widowers and Orphans of HIV and AIDS (OEWONA) and distributed among pregnant women and vulnerable communities.




PROTECTING GIRLS

As part of ensuring protection for adolescent girls from gender-based violence during the COVID-19 response, **1 064** marginalised girls were identified in target regions and reached with information. Together with other UN agencies, guidelines for school in the context of COVID-19 were developed.

2 000 community engagement tool kits were printed and distributed to **34** health districts including to civil society organisation(CSO)s. The kits are being used by community health workers from both government and CSOs to convey standardised messages.

VULNERABLE WOMEN AND GIRLS WHO RECEIVED DIGNITY KITS

 **13,300**

 **300** LIVING WITH
DISABILITIES



RESPONDING TO THE PROLONGED DROUGHT

With funding from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), UNFPA provided essential hygiene and sanitation items in the form of “dignity kits” to vulnerable women and girls affected by the drought across various regions in Namibia.

In 2019, the President declared a state of emergency in response to widespread drought (the second such declaration in three years) and asked development partners to join the government’s response efforts. The lack of rain has left about 500,000 people - one in five Namibians - without access to enough food.

The dignity kits provided by UNFPA consisted of washing powder, sanitary pads, bathing soap and other toiletries.

One of the recipients of the dignity kits was Ndilimeke Nghifikwa; a 20-year old Grade 12 learner at Eenhana Senior Secondary School in northern Namibia. Nghifikwa hails from Ongha village - some 200 kilometres away from her school, meaning that her parents needed to rent a room for her in Eenhana to be closer to her studies. Nghifikwa often faced the dilemma of choosing between paying rent or buying toiletries, and more often than not, shelter won out. But with UNFPA’s dignity kits, she no longer had to choose.

”

My parents cannot always afford to buy me the sanitary towels. It is really embarrassing when you do not have them.

- Ndilimeke



Ndilimeke Nghifikwa

How the drought in Namibia has increased girls' vulnerability to unplanned pregnancy

”

All I want to do is give my baby a good life.

- Julien Konjak



Life has not been kind to Julien Konjak, 17. Since giving birth at 16, she has dealt with a painful backlash from her community. The country's ongoing drought has only exacerbated her situation.

Julien is one of thousands of girls who have received dignity kits from UNFPA. For Julien, the assistance could not be more timely. Her family is struggling to make ends meet. Julien currently lives with her aunt, who is the household breadwinner, as her mother is not in good health. "I sell traditional beer to take care of all six people living in this one-roomed kaya (home)," her aunt, Reniece Gogoses added.

When distributing these kits, UNFPA also provided information on sexual and reproductive health, including how to prevent unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.

"I just wish I received [such information] before I gave birth," said Julien.

Meeting a pubescent girl's needs

Puberty was a difficult moment for Julien. To meet her extra needs, she would ask her family members and peers to help with sanitary pads as well as cream and soap to wash herself. "But then I met a man who worked as a gardener at our school. He told me that he liked me and asked me what my needs were, and started buying me things," she said shyly.

Her mother was aware of their developing relationship because he brought them food.

"One day, he asked me to visit him. He asked me to have sex with him and I asked him to use a condom, but he told me that he did not have one," said Julien.

Within a few months, Julien began to feel nauseous. Her mother advised her to visit the clinic where she learned she was pregnant. "I was very sad because I wanted to finish school."

Anxiety of early motherhood

Once Julien had given birth, the harsh reality of parenting at a young age set in. Her child's father refused to help her raise her baby. "When the nurses found out how old he was, they reported the matter to the police. When the police came looking for him, he ran away. Up to now, we don't know where he is," Julien said.

Despite the setback, she hopes to be able to get her plans for her future back on track. "I want to go back to school, to give my child a better life, and to love her unconditionally," she said.

Her aunt has made sure that Julien is protected against any further unplanned pregnancies. She receives contraception from a nearby clinic. "It is so sad to see how grown men take advantage of these girls, who are so naive," Ms. Gogoses said.

For young women like Julien, UNFPA remains committed to ensuring that all adolescent girls in Namibia have access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services and information.

TOWARDS ENDING MATERNAL DEATH





UNFPA and sister UN agencies supported the Ministry of Health and Social Services to develop guidelines on continuation of essential sexual and reproductive health, maternal, and child health services in the context of COVID-19.



23 HEALTH WORKERS

trained on abortion values clarification and attitudes transformation (VCAT)



115 HEALTH WORKERS

trained on family planning

TOWARDS ENDING UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING

Family planning is not only a matter of human rights; it is also central to women's empowerment, reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development.

- Throughout 2020, UNFPA procured and donated basic medical equipment, reproductive health commodities and contraceptives to the Ministry of Health and Social Services to bolster the Namibian

Government's capability for the delivery of sexual and reproductive health, including (but not limited to): family planning, post abortion care, maternal and child health care services in health facilities.

- Developed **3 000** posters which were distributed to health facilities around the country.

CONTRACEPTIVES SUPPLIED BY UNFPA*

DMPA DEPO-PROVERA & SOLOSHOT SYRINGES

100 000

NORISTERATE & SOLOSHOT SYRINGES

500

LOW DOSE ORAL CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS

100 000

CONDOMS

360 000

IMPLANTABLE CONTRACEPTIVES

25 000

IMPACT OF CONTRACEPTIVES

UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES

35 616

UNSAFE ABORTIONS AVERTED

3 406

MATERNAL DEATHS AVERTED

46

177



health providers from 4 regions trained on how to detect and treat gender-based violence (GBV) cases using the Clinical Handbook on Health Care of Survivors Subjected to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and/or Sexual Violence (SV)

38

health workers

trained to work with the GBV units from 7 regions regarding clinical management of rape



83

GBV multispectral service providers (doctors, social workers, police, legal officers) trained on UNFPA Essential Service Package of GBV in 6 targeted regions

1 000

copies of the standard operating procedures on Shelter for Survivors of GBV, violence against children and trafficking in persons printed and distributed...(where?)



30

social workers and police officers

from 14 regions trained on UNFPA standard operating procedures



34

media managers and reporters from the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation radio and TV trained on GBV prevention and response to engage communities through different platforms

20 000

men and boys

reached through the "What We Men Talk About" talk show discussing IPV and SV



52 164

people reached through the #MeToo Twitter campaigns, with messages on gender-based violence and comprehensive, evidence-based sexual education during the 16 Days of Activism against GBV



12



Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) trainings conducted in 6 targeted regions reaching 546 Government and CSOs service providers; 332 community members, aid workers and volunteers



2 836

adolescents either in school or within local communities reached through 3 community outreach meetings and 18 school workshops for adolescents on SGBV and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) in 3 regions



6

secondary school girls

nominated to serve as gender school champions, standing against all forms of violence against women, children and people with disabilities



4 960

copies of a booklet on GBV prevention and response distributed in communities across Namibia

TOWARDS ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND ALL HARMFUL PRACTICES

In 2020, UNFPA continued to work closely with the Namibian government and partners to end gender-based violence (GBV).

- In partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Office of the Prime Minister, supported the Namibian Police to develop a **national GBV Administration database system** to improve case management services, as well as reporting and coordination between service providers.
- Assisted law enforcement to develop a **manual for users (health care workers, police and social workers) of the Police GBV database**. Additionally, the Country Office procured two laptops that will be used by social workers for case management at the GBV Protection Units.
- Collaborated with the Ministry of Health's National Health Training Centre, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Global Fund to develop **training curricula (including a Facilitator's Guide, Training presentation, job aids)**.
- As part of addressing harmful norms that perpetuate sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), partnered with the Namibia Family Planning Association (NAPPA), Regain Trust and the Ministry of Gender to develop

media content on SGBV including a radio drama which aired on national radio in four (4) local languages.

Supported the One Economy Foundation (Office of the First Lady of the Republic of Namibia) to conduct 10 #BreakFree interventions. Additionally:

- Trained service providers on topics related to youth-friendly gender-based violence and, sexual and reproductive health services;
- Trained media professionals on how to constructively serve as a powerful medium that transforms perceptions and debunks sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) myths;
- Provided care services for SGBV survivors;
- Convened Story Exchange with Teen Clubs;
- Launched the "Problematic Mindsets Full Report" which provides an understanding of the root causes of SGBV based on experiences of frontline service providers, survivors and perpetrators of SGBV at the time of the incident; and
- Held an art exhibition which depicted clothing of survivors and perpetrators of SGBV to break the misperceptions surrounding SGBV in Namibia.

Born with HIV: A teenager coming to terms with her status in a time of COVID-19

While the world is battling the COVID-19 pandemic, Secilia Jakob*, 18, is fighting her own battle with a different virus. She is learning to come to terms with her HIV status.

Secilia was born with HIV, a fact that she was unaware of despite being on antiretroviral treatment for most of her life. She has no memories of her parents, as they died while she was still an infant. No one told her their cause of death.

Despite more than three decades since Namibia's first HIV case was reported, many children born with the virus are still subjected to stigma and discrimination at the hands of their families, communities and at school.

Secilia, a pupil at a school in Namibia's northern region of Omusati, received a parcel of food from the World Food Programme (WFP) as well as a dignity kit from UNFPA, at the Olupandu Clinic. The UNFPA and WFP collaboration complemented the government's efforts in responding to the prolonged drought.

It was during this process that she told her story to UNFPA.

"I always had to take medication, but I never knew what for," she said. "My grandmother told me not to let anyone touch my blood and stuff, but I had no idea what she was talking about. And she kept taking me to

” *I always had to take medication, but I never knew what for.*

- Secilia Jakob

the hospital every month.”

One day, during the school holidays in August 2017, her brother broke the news to her. For Secilia it was devastating.

“He called me to the room and asked if I knew why I [took the] medicine. He explained that it was because I was born HIV-positive. I knew what HIV was, so I couldn't digest the thought of me having it and why I was only finding out now,” she said.

“I started to cry and he gave me a hug and reassured me that everything would be okay. I do not blame my parents, grandmother or brother. I just wish they had told me earlier,” she added.

In collaboration with the Society for Family Health and the Namibia Planned Parenthood Association, UNFPA conducted mobile outreach in informal settlements and rural areas, serving thousands of young people in need by providing HIV counselling and testing, antiretroviral therapy (ART) and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

* Name changed and photo withheld to protect her privacy.

TOWARDS ENDING HIV TRANSMISSIONS

- Due to COVID-19, emergency UNFPA supported partners to enhance service provision through mobile outreach clinics to adapt to restrictions of national lockdown and mitigate the fear of accessing services in public health facilities during a pandemic. These mobile clinics provided sexual and reproductive health and HIV services through our implementing partners, Society for Family Health (SFH) and the Namibia Planned Parenthood Association (NAPPA).

HIV SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH THE MOBILE CLINICS

NUMBER OF CLIENTS WHO ACCESSED THE SERVICES

HIV PREVENTION INFORMATION

20 513

HIV COUNSELLING TESTING

10 644

CLIENTS INITIATED ON PREP-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS

1 675

STI TREATMENT AND COUNSELLING

81

CLIENTS STARTED ON ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY

119

REFERRAL

77

- **77 616** Condoms distributed to young people through the Condomise campaigns



- Assisted the Ministry of Health and Social Services with the revision of the National Condom Strategy
- In collaboration with the National Assembly and the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Health and Social Services conducted a capacity-building workshop for members of parliament and staff. The workshop aim to enhance the knowledge and skills of Members of Parliament and National Assembly staff on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and HIV/AIDS. UNFPA engaged a total of **35** MPs and **7** National Assembly staff members.



13,138

young people 15 - 24 years old accessed contraceptives in 8 target regions in public health facilities



2,875

young people were reached with information on sexual and reproductive health, including HIV through The Condomise campaigns

INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

UNFPA's vision on young people is straightforward: "A world fit for adolescents and youth is one in which their rights are promoted and protected. It is a world in which girls and boys have optimal opportunities to develop their full potential, to freely express themselves and have their views respected, and to live free of poverty, discrimination and violence." Drawing on this vision, UNFPA supported the Namibian Government and partners to:



Launch the Let's Talk - Early and Unintended Pregnancies Campaign



Develop the National Youth Policy III



Conduct a high-level consultation and validation meeting for the new Integrated School Health Policy



Assist African Youth and Adolescents Network (AfriYAN) to develop their draft Strategic Plan and Framework



Incorporate menstrual health and hygiene management in the new Integrated School Health Policy



Provide contraceptives to 13,138 young people aged 15 - 24 years

Through the partnership with One Economy Foundation, **11** #BeFree trainings and dialogues were held on various themes for different audience (young people in and out of school aged 14-25, frontline service providers, parents and caregivers, grassroots community leaders, church leaders. The dialogues focused on resilient mental health, 21st century parenting, information and communications technology (ICT), COVID-19, mentorship, sport and informal settlement and how these issues impact sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) of young people during COVID-19.



#BeFree

#BeFree

#BeFree

BeFr



Key results achieved with NSA

Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) and National Planning Commission (NPC) with support from UNFPA conducted a **data analysis workshop on the 2020 Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) study** for Namibia. The main objective of the workshop was to perform data analysis with the aim of producing a national MPI study that is more truly reflective of Namibia's situation.

UNFPA supported NSA in procuring **personal protective equipment including face masks, face shield, sanitisers and gloves for 1 800 census mapping field workers**. UNFPA provided technical support to ensure continuity of work during NSA's census mapping exercise and overall census preparation.

UNFPA in partnership with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supported NSA to develop the **COVID-19 Situation Dashboard**.



NSA school visits aimed at creating awareness about the census.

GENERATING EVIDENCE

High quality development data is the foundation for meaningful policy-making, efficient resource allocation, and effective public service delivery. In 2020, UNFPA continued to provide technical and financial support to the Government of the Republic of Namibia to strengthen national capacity to generate, manage, and use statistical data for the country's development.

UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health and Social Services in the development and review of key strategic documents which included:



Menstrual Health and Hygiene Study



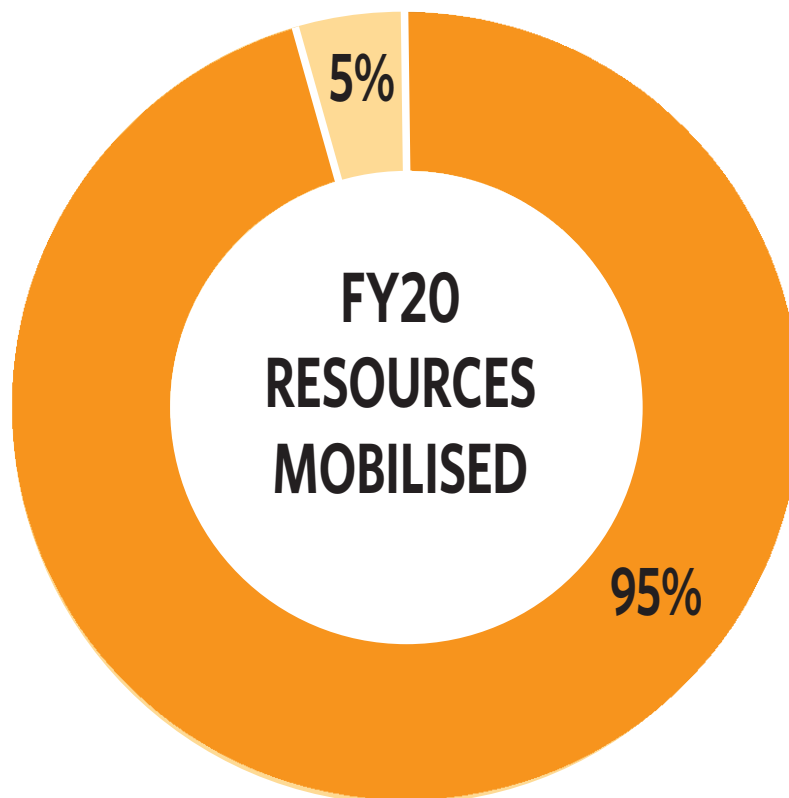
Child Marriage Study



Standard operating procedures for point of entry and assessment for quarantine facilities for COVID-19

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

In 2020, UNFPA surpassed the annual target of US\$120,000 by mobilising **US\$360 023.25** in total.



UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)	US\$343 028.00	95%
Embassy of Switzerland in South Africa	US\$16 885.25	5%



With support from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), UNFPA delivered dignity kits to Omuhonga Farm school in Opuwo district Kunene region, ensuring that dignity is maintained for female students living in the most remote parts of the country.



Ensuring rights and choices for all

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