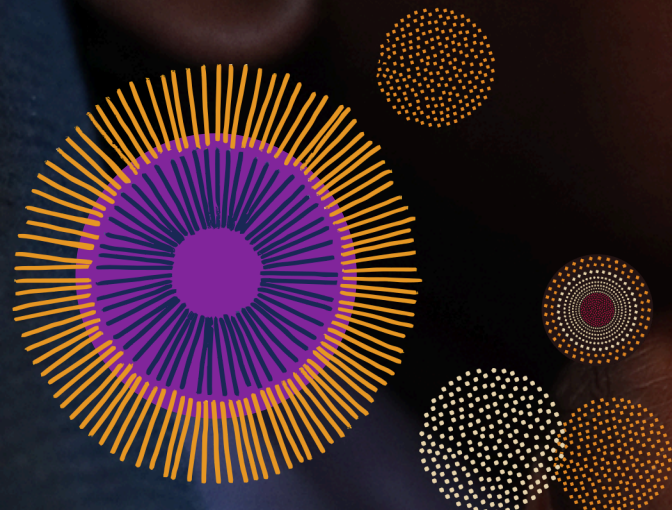




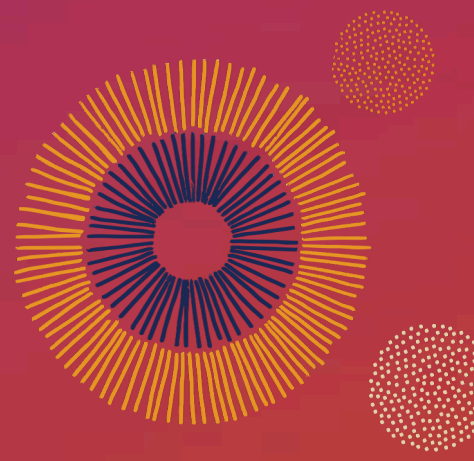
In pursuit of the **ICPD** vision

Annual Report 2023





In 2023, UNFPA, in collaboration with Regain Trust and Lidar Community Foundation, supported by the Government of Japan under the Leaving No One Behind Project, empowered 40 young mothers under 25 through a three-week livelihood training. Now equipped with skills in cooking, baking, entrepreneurship, gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health knowledge, they are ready to establish their own income-generating businesses, marking a milestone in their journey to self-reliance. Here, Japanese Ambassador to Namibia, H.E. Hisao Nishimaki is seen handing over a certificate to a participant alongside Katutura Central Constituency Councillor Hon. Rodman Katjaimo. ©UNFPA/Namibia



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Message from the Representative

2023 was a year of introspection and renewed commitment in pursuit of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Themed 'Year of Revival' by the Namibian Head of State, together with the Namibian Government and civil society organisations, we reflected on three decades of implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and a decade of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD), which localises the ICPD agenda in Africa.

Our review revealed that there has been some progress – fewer women are dying during pregnancy and childbirth, more women have access to family planning, and more girls are attending school. Challenges persist. The adolescent birth rate remains high, at 82 births per 1000 and HIV incidence among young women (15-24 years) at 0.9% contributing to 30% of infections. Gender-based violence remains a significant issue at 33%.

To address these challenges, together with the Namibian Government and other partners, we continued to explore innovative strategies to enhance access to quality integrated sexual and reproductive health services for all individuals in Namibia, particularly those furthest behind.

For instance, our partnership with the Financial Literacy Initiative (FLI), Kongalend Financial Services Rural, led to the provision of financial literacy training, loans, and sexual and reproductive health

services to vulnerable communities in the Ohangwena, Oshana, and Oshikoto regions. Through collaborative efforts with the Namibia Planned Parenthood Association (NAPPA) and the Society of Family Health (SFH), we extended essential sexual and reproductive health services and information to 31,011 young people through our mobile and static clinics, thereby empowering them to make informed decisions regarding their health and well-being.

Additionally, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Services and Organon South Africa (a global healthcare company), we trained healthcare providers in the insertion of long-term reversible contraceptives, resulting in a significant increase in family planning access nationwide. During the training, healthcare providers successfully administered 1,387 long-term reversible contraceptives, mainly implants.

Moreover, UNFPA's contribution to the 2023 Namibian Population and Housing Census, the first-ever digital census, was instrumental in facilitating access to 12,700 census tablets from Togo and Statistics South Africa, providing technical oversight through experts such as a Census Chief Technical Advisor, a CSPro and Data Expert, and a Post Census-Enumeration Survey Expert, among others. This support ensured the successful collection of crucial data to inform policies and programmes, laying the groundwork for more effective and targeted interventions to address the population's needs.

As we look forward to 2024, UNFPA remains committed to supporting the Namibian Government to further analyse the census data and produce relevant thematic reports.

These are just a few of the many achievements we accomplished collectively with our partners, the Namibian Government, donors, civil society organisations, and the people of Namibia themselves.

We extend our deepest gratitude as we continue our journey toward a Namibia where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



Erika Goldson
UNFPA Namibia Representative



Who We Are

We are UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency in Namibia.

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

Aligned with Namibia's Fifth National Development Plan (2019-2023), Vision 2030, and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2019-2023), we are dedicated to advancing the ICPD Programme of Action and realising the following transformative results.



end unmet need for family planning



end preventable maternal deaths



end gender-based violence and harmful practices



end sexual transmission of HIV (regional priority)

Our Partners

1. Government
2. United Nations Agencies
3. Development Partners
4. Civil Society Organisations
5. Private Sector



Country Context



Family planning

12.6%

Unmet need for family planning, with a modern contraceptive prevalence rate of **58%**. The total fertility rate is **3.3**, and adolescent birth rate is **82 per 1,000**



Maternal deaths

215

Maternal deaths **per 100,000 live births**. **93%** of pregnant women received antenatal care services



Gender-based violence

33%

Of married women aged 15 to 49 have faced violence from their partners. The rate of child marriage stands at **18.4%**.



HIV

12.6%

HIV prevalence with annual incidence of **0.36%**. Young women (15-24 yrs): **0.9%** contributing **30%** of total new infections



Youthful population

3,022,401 million people

71.1%

Are under 35 yrs old

35%

Of population multidimensionally poor

DATA SOURCES

1. 2023 Namibia Population and Housing Census Preliminary Report
2. 2021 Namibia Multidimensional Poverty Index (MIP) Report
3. 2022 Health Sector Performance Review Synthesis Report
4. 2021 Namibia Investment Cases Towards Ending Unmet Need for Family Planning and Gender-Based Violence Report
5. 2017 Namibia Population-based HIV Impact Assessment
6. Trends in maternal mortality 2000 to 2020

Towards Ending Unmet need for Family Planning

*IN THE PICTURE: Ms. Indileni Erasmus
and her husband with their baby.*
©UNFPA/Namibia



In 2023, UNFPA remained committed to collaborating with the Namibian Government and partners to uphold access to safe and voluntary family planning as a fundamental human right.

Through strategic support to the national family planning programme, UNFPA aimed to ensure universal access to high-quality services for all individuals in Namibia, with a special focus on adolescents, young people, and women.

UNFPA, in partnership with the Society for Family Health (SFH) and Namibian Family Planning Association (NAPPA), has supported initiatives reaching **42,333** young people across nine regions through mobile and static clinics. These young people not only received vital sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information but were also empowered to make informed decisions regarding their SRH rights. The comprehensive services provided encompassed HIV counselling and testing, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), antiretroviral therapy (ART), family planning, voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC), cervical cancer screening, and gender-based violence screening and counselling.

Additionally, UNFPA facilitated capacity building for healthcare workers in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Services and Organon South Africa, a global healthcare company. The training focused on enhancing healthcare workers' capacities in family planning, with a specific emphasis on long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARC).

As a result, **149** healthcare providers were trained, leading to the successful insertion of **1,387** long-term acting reversible contraceptive methods, primarily implants, during their practical training.

Moreover, the Country Office prioritised comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and its linkages with services. Collaborating with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), and higher learning institutions, **553** pre-service teachers and nurses were trained in CSE, along with **89** in-service professionals.

IN THE PICTURE: Some of the women and adolescent girls who received contraceptive implants during our mobile clinic outreach in 2023. ©SFH Namibia



KEY UNFPA SUPPORTED RESULTS IN 2023



42,333

Young women accessed **contraceptive methods** of their choice through our static and mobile outreaches conducted in collaboration with the Society for Family Health (SFH) and Namibian Family Planning Association (NAPPA). This access empowered them to take control of their reproductive health, make informed decisions, and achieve bodily autonomy.



149

Healthcare providers were equipped with knowledge and skills to perform **insertion and removal of implants and intrauterine contraceptive devices (IUCDs)** through our partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Services and Organon South Africa, a global healthcare company. Additionally, **1,387** long-acting reversible contraceptive methods, mainly implants, were inserted during practical sessions, thereby enhancing access to long-acting reversible contraceptive methods.



Since 2018 UNFPA has advocated for the government to explore the option of third-party pool procurement for reproductive health commodities. Finally, in 2023, the government agreed to address procurement challenges by procuring through UNFPA. A proforma invoice has been issued to the Ministry and pending internal process to proceed with the procurement. This will address the current challenges on the supply chain and stock of reproductive health commodities.

Empowered parenthood: harnessing family planning for a secure future

When Ms. Indileni Erasmus (31) decided to start using contraceptives eight years ago, her motivation was clear – to space her children and be able to provide for them.

"I became pregnant when I was 23 years old. Immediately, I decided to start using contraceptives to avoid another immediate pregnancy, plan for my family, and be able to take care of my children," shared Indileni, a married mother of two boys aged eight and four and a girl of 11 months old.

"Because of contraceptives, my husband and I were able to plan for our family and find ways to provide for our children."

Both Ms. Indileni and her husband have opened a tuck shop in their neighbourhood, selling essential items such as food, soft drinks and hygiene products. The income generated from their business enables them to provide for their family.

Ms. Indileni, was one of the 44 women from her village of Omutsegwonime in Omuthiya, who participated in a financial literacy training conducted by UNFPA in partnership with the Financial Literacy Initiative (FLI), Kongalend Financial Services Rural, and the Society for Family Health (SFH), held from 6 to 8 November 2023.

During the literacy training, Indileni had the opportunity to visit the mobile health clinic, a service also facilitated by UNFPA and its partners, where she received her follow-up contraceptive pills. This comprehensive approach addressed not only the business aspects of her and her fellow community members but also their health and well-being. The health services provided by the mobile clinic included vital check-ups, consultations, and access to necessary resources.

"The financial literacy training opened up new possibilities for my business, but the health services added another layer of support I needed," shared Ms. Indileni.

"It's a holistic approach that considers every aspect of our lives, and I am genuinely thankful for that," she added.



IN THE PICTURE: Ms. Indileni and her baby. ©UNFPA/Namibia

Towards Ending Preventable Maternal Deaths

Thanks to the Japanese Government's generous support, UNFPA's Leaving No One Behind Project provided dignity kits to 55 pregnant women at the Angelika Muharukua Maternity Waiting Home in Opuwo. These kits included essentials such as vaseline, toothpaste, face cloths, and more, ensuring their dignity and enhancing their well-being.

©UNFPA Namibia



Ending maternal deaths from preventable causes is a cornerstone of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and an important indicator in the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2023, UNFPA and its partners reaffirmed their commitment to assisting the Government in reducing maternal mortality, with a focus on safeguarding the most vulnerable women.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the University of Namibia School of Medicine, comprehensive abortion care trainings were conducted in Oshana, Erongo, and Karas regions. Seventy-four service providers, including doctors and nurses, were oriented on Comprehensive Abortion Care, including practical training on manual vacuum aspiration. This initiative is crucial in reducing maternal mortality rates linked to unsafe abortion practices.

UNFPA, alongside the National Assembly, actively supported the Parliamentary Committee on Gender

and Family Affairs in conducting public hearings on the Abortion and Sterilisation Act 2 of 1975. These hearings gathered community perspectives to inform amendments to the existing act, shaping debates within parliament. This collaborative effort ensures that community voices play a central role in legislative decisions.

With funding from the Government of Japan, UNFPA led the transformation of the Kazetjitindire Angelika Muharukhua Maternity Waiting Home from a facility lacking furnishings to a well-equipped space.

Donated items such as a **double-door refrigerator, two industrial stoves, eight dining tables, 40 chairs, a stainless steel table with a shelf, 25 drinking jars, 25 blankets, 25 treated mosquito nets, and two sewing machines.** were instrumental in creating a comfortable and functional environment.

IN THE PICTURE: Ms. Diana Tjirazo, 23-year-old expectant mother, expressed gratitude for being able to stay at the Kazetjitindire Angelika Muharukhua Maternity Waiting Home in Opuwo.
©UNFPA/Namibia



KEY UNFPA SUPPORTED RESULTS IN 2023



In partnership with the National Assembly, we supported the parliamentary committee on Gender and Family Affairs in conducting **public hearings on the Abortion and Sterilisation (Act 2 of 1975)**. These hearings gathered community perspectives to inform the amendment of the existing act. The insights collected will shape parliamentary debates, particularly concerning the introduced motion, ensuring community voices inform legislative decisions.



UNFPA acquired medical equipment for maternity wards in Zambezi, Kunene, and Ohangwena regions through the Japan-funded Leaving No One Behind project. Equipment comprises **15 CTG monitors, 3 ultrasonic devices, 6 adult physician scales, 8 gynaecology delivery tables, and 67 hospital bedscreens**. This equipment will go a long way in improving maternal health outcomes in these regions. Pregnant women can now access essential healthcare services with greater ease and confidence, ensuring safer pregnancies and better outcomes for both mothers and their newborns.



74

Service providers comprising doctors and nurses, equipped with knowledge and skills to provide abortion care services through **orientation on Comprehensive Abortion Care**, which included practical training on the use of manual vacuum aspirators.

Haven of hope: Namibian maternity waiting home reduces risks for young mothers-to-be

Expecting her first child in February 2023, Ms. Karikikuta van der Merve, 18, found herself in a predicament. Her tender age placed her at a higher risk of complications during childbirth. She needed to be close to medical assistance, yet her village, Ehomba, is situated far from the nearest hospital.

This is significant for the young mother-to-be, because if she gives birth in hospital, she has a far lower chance of death or injury, such as an obstetric fistula. Hospitals are equipped to keep women safe while giving birth. They offer trained medical professionals, advanced medical technologies, and emergency equipment that can address any potential complications.

The region Ms. van der Merve hails from has Namibia's lowest rate of hospital deliveries, a trend that puts mothers' lives at risk. Poor roads, lack of transportation and long distances to the hospital make it difficult for rural pregnant women to help in time to give birth safely. As an anxious mum-to-be, she needed to be assured of the medical support she would need.

IN THE PICTURE: Ms. Karikikuta van der Merve. ©UNFPA Namibia

For countless women and teenage mothers like her, maternity waiting homes located close to hospitals represent a haven of hope. As her time to deliver approached, Ms. van der Merve was housed at Kazetjitindire Angelika Muharukhua Maternity Waiting Home in Opuwo.

"The Kunene region is blessed to have this maternity waiting house. It has kept so many pregnant women safe," said Ms. van der Merve.

Built in 2013 to enable expectant mothers to be near the town's District Hospital, the dormitory houses up to 60 women and offers a shared kitchen, dining room, bathroom and meeting room.

But when Ms. van der Merve arrived, the facility lacked important equipment. This matter was resolved with the donation of new furniture and kitchenware to the home, by UNFPA through the Leaving No One Behind Project funded by the Government of Japan.

"We didn't have enough chairs and tables, and we would eat sitting on the ground or our beds. Now we will be more comfortable while we are staying here," Ms. van der Merve said.

The donated items included a refrigerator, two industrial stoves, eight dining tables, chairs, a stainless-steel table, drinking jars, blankets, treated mosquito nets and two sewing machines. In addition, the 55 pregnant women housed at the home, each received a dignity kit, cans of fish, maize meal and a bottle of cooking oil.



Towards Ending Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices

IN THE PICTURE: With funding from the Government of Japan, UNFPA supported the #BreakFree From Violence Campaign's Sip & Paint event for 45 gender-based violence and femicide survivors. Themed "Empowerment through Art and Expression," the event provided a safe space for survivors to begin their healing journey through art. The photo features one of the victims. ©One Economy Foundation



UNFPA's mission is grounded in the belief that every individual deserves equal rights and protections. We prioritize the empowerment of women and young people, recognizing the challenges they face in exercising their sexual and reproductive health rights.

In 2023, UNFPA collaborated with partners to bolster the capacity of national institutions to deliver comprehensive gender-based violence (GBV) response services and empower communities to prevent GBV.

A significant portion of these endeavors were made possible through funding from the Government of Japan under the Leaving No One Behind Project.

UNFPA supported the Association of Diplomatic Spouses (ADS) in Namibia to host an international food and craft bazaar on 13 May 2023, to support GBV prevention and response efforts in the country. The event served as a platform for local businesses, including those owned by GBV survivors and individuals with disabilities, to showcase and sell their products and services, thereby enhancing livelihood opportunities. With over 900 attendees, the bazaar generated proceeds allocated to training programs and community-led initiatives, as well as supporting the non-governmental organisation LifeLine/ChildLine.

UNFPA partnered with One Economy to organise the #BeFreeBallers soccer tournament, a dynamic

initiative aimed at raising awareness about mental health, sexual health, gender equality, and substance abuse among men.

With funding from the Japanese Government, the tournament provided a unique platform for over 100 men to spotlight their role as allies in combating GBV and gender inequality. Engaging in their favorite pastime, soccer, participants were able to join meaningful discussions and activities focused on promoting positive masculinities.

IN THE PICTURE: From right to left, Ms. Lamia Lotfy, the current ADS President and spouse of the Egyptian ambassador to Namibia; Hon. Jenelly Matundu, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation; Hon. Doreen Sioka, Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Child Welfare; and Ms. Anti Riantini Pratignyo, spouse of the Indonesian Ambassador to Namibia, at one of the stalls.
©UNFPA/Namibia



KEY UNFPA SUPPORTED RESULTS IN 2023

The following results were reached through our partnerships with the One Economy Foundation (ONE), Regain Trust, Society for Family Health (SFH) and Namibian Family Planning Association (NAPPA):



155,260

People, including men and women, boys and girls, received **key messages on sexual and reproductive health, as well as gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response**, which also reached migrants, refugees, and persons with disabilities. Disseminated through various platforms, including media channels, these messages empowered recipients to make informed decisions and access support services for their sexual health and safety.



34,396

People **screened for GBV** during our static and mobile outreaches with the Society for Family Health (SFH) and Namibian Family Planning Association (NAPPA), facilitating early detection and intervention, and providing timely support for their well-being.



7,549

GBV survivors and vulnerable groups across six regions received **life skills and psycho-social support**, resulting in enhanced well-being, resilience, and coping abilities, empowering them for more confident and stable navigation of their challenges.



5,290

Men and boys engaged in **positive masculinity, women's empowerment and equitable gender relations** in five targeted regions (Khomas, Ohangwena, Omusati, Zambezi and Kunene). This inclusive approach aimed to foster greater awareness and acceptance, supporting girls and women in their lives and facilitating healthy, gender-equitable relationships, which benefits everyone.

Japanese-supported cook-off breaks gender stereotypes and fosters dialogue among men and boys

The competition made me feel responsible and being part of the change of seeing men in the kitchen, at the same time boosting my confidence to cook for my family,” said Mr. Kireneus Kevanhu, the third prize winner of the #BeFree Cook-Off Competition.

Mr. Kevanhu was one of the more than 100 boys and men who participated in the competition, which aimed to empower boys and young men by challenging stereotypes, teaching cooking skills, and fostering discussions on societal issues.

In 2022, the Namibian Police Force recorded 5,356 gender-based violence-related cases. It is a known fact that women disproportionately experience GBV and other forms of abuse, however meaningfully addressing the root causes of GBV includes working with men and boys to promote gender equality and foster a culture of respect and non-violence.

With this in mind, UNFPA and the Japanese Government supported the #BeFree Movement, to host the #BeFree Cook-Off on 21 April 2023 as part of the Leaving No One Behind project. Otherwise known as the #BeFree Potjie Competition, the event sought to empower boys and young men by challenging harmful gender stereotypes by teaching them how to cook, promoting and role-modelling positive gender values and actions against violence, and discussing important issues affecting them in society.

Kevanhu, the third prize winner of the cook-off competition, said he was proud of himself and felt relaxed cooking among other men.

“I also felt creative, putting all ingredients together and putting off a tasty potjie which impressed the judges.

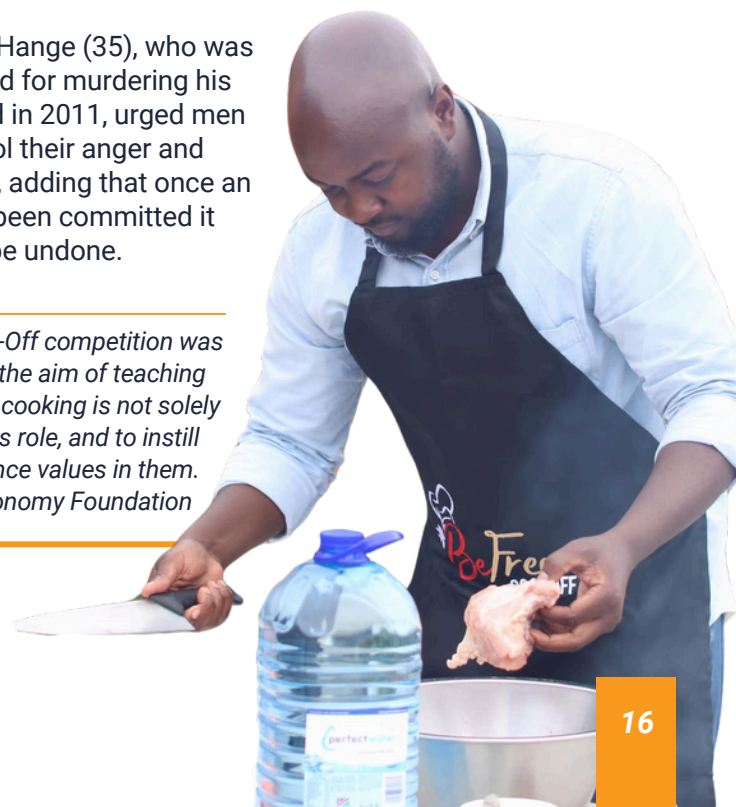
Under the guidance of professional Chef Phillip, participants learned how to cook a chicken potjie – disrupting ‘traditional’ beliefs that cooking is a women’s job.

Two inmates from the Windhoek Correctional Facility, who were guests at the event, shared their experiences and the offences that landed them in the facility.

Ricardo Katzao (37), who was convicted for rape in 2014, advised men to refrain from alcohol and drug abuse, as it can be a contributing factor to most crimes committed.

Richard Hange (35), who was convicted for murdering his girlfriend in 2011, urged men to control their anger and jealousy, adding that once an act has been committed it cannot be undone.

The Cook-Off competition was held with the aim of teaching boys that cooking is not solely a woman’s role, and to instill anti-violence values in them.
©One Economy Foundation



Towards Ending Sexual Transmission of HIV



IN THE PICTURE: Ms. Haillie Lushetile, 20, is tested for HIV at a UNFPA-supported mobile clinic. ©SFH Namibia



Taboos, stigma, discrimination, and inequalities hinder access to HIV prevention and treatment services.

UNFPA not only works to reduce transmission of HIV and other infections, but links this effort with sexual and reproductive health in law, policy, health systems and service delivery.

Partnering with the Ministry of Health and Social Services, Namibia Planned Parenthood Association, African Youth and Adolescent Network, and with technical support from UNFPA and the Global Fund, we conducted **eight Condomise campaigns** in 2023. These campaigns targeted young people across six regions: Omusati, Khomas, Kunene, Ohangwena, Erongo, and Hardap. The primary aim was to raise awareness and foster demand for condom use among youth, while advocating for HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) prevention with an emphasis on consistent condom use.

These campaigns not only disseminated crucial information but also empowered young individuals to make informed decisions regarding their sexual health, thereby contributing to the reduction of HIV and STI transmission rates among Namibia's youth population.

The Country Office submitted documentation showcasing **best and promising practices in HIV testing via mobile outreach**. Notably, this best practice was featured in the 53rd Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Programme Coordinating Board meeting report, acknowledging its significance and effectiveness in HIV testing.



IN THE PICTURE: Ms. Ndilimeke Haiduwa, 31, a tester for the Society for Family Health, is shown attending to a client during a mobile outreach in partnership with UNFPA and Government of Japan. ©UNFPA/Namibia

KEY UNFPA SUPPORTED RESULTS IN 2023

The following results were reached through our partnerships with the Society for Family Health (SFH) and Namibian Family Planning Association (NAPPA):



334,309

Male and female condoms were distributed through our Condomise campaigns, empowering individuals to take charge of their sexual and reproductive health and prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.



647

People were enrolled on **pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)** during our mobile outreach with SFH.



14,702

People were **tested for HIV** during our static and mobile outreaches. **166 tested positive** and were promptly referred for treatment, ensuring timely access to care and support for managing their HIV status.



21,995

People were provided with **sexually transmitted infections (STIs) treatment** during our mobile and static outreaches with SFH and NAPPA.

“Your story holds power”: UNFPA provides HIV testing for survivors of violence in Namibia

Twenty-year-old university student Ms. Haillie Lushetile did not have an easy childhood.

At five years old, she survived rape by a family member. She repressed the traumatic experience, however, until her stepfather attempted to assault her when she was 16.

"The person who was supposed to protect me wanted to do this to me," she told UNFPA.

In 2013, seven per cent of Namibian women aged 15-49 reported having faced sexual violence since age 15. The ramifications of such violations can be devastating; survivors may face challenges to their mental and physical health, including through exposure to sexually transmitted infections like HIV.

UNFPA supports HIV testing, treatment and prevention services for communities across Namibia. In 2023, working alongside its partners, the Society for Family Health and the Namibian Family Planning Association, UNFPA provided crucial integrated sexual and reproductive health, HIV, and gender-based violence services.

For Ms. Lushetile, getting tested for HIV was an essential way to understand how her past would impact her present. She worried her history with sexual assault had made her vulnerable to the virus. "I had to get tested," she said.

"If I had HIV, I didn't want to infect others."

Ms. Lushetile tested negative that day – and again in November 2023, confirmed at a UNFPA-supported mobile health clinic.

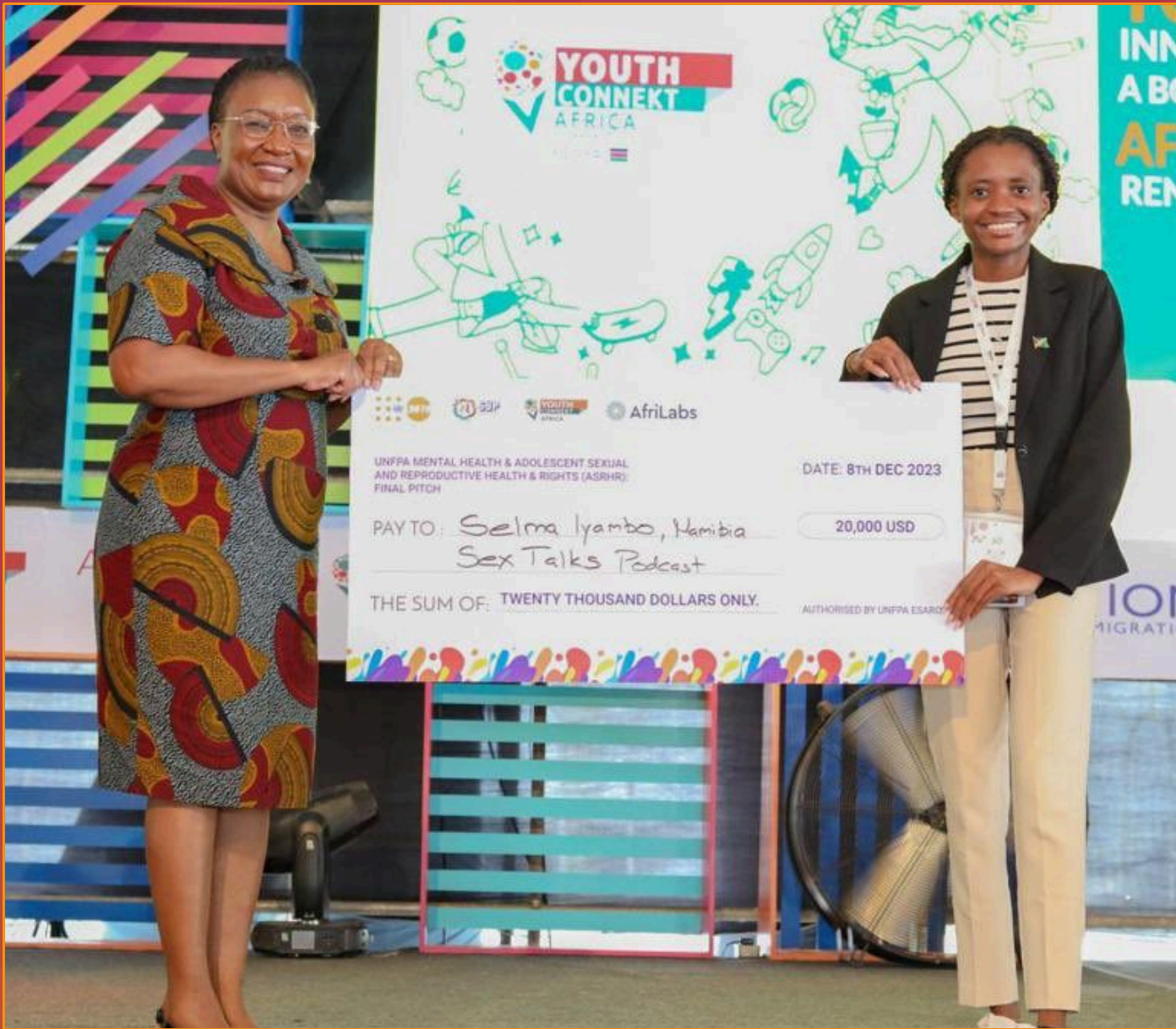
"When you test, you free your mind and protect not only yourself but people around you as well," Ms. Lushetile said. "Knowing your status empowers you to make the right choices for your health."

Now studying procurement at the Namibia University of Science and Technology, Ms. Lushetile aspires to become a motivational speaker and writer after graduation.

"I believe that my story can be used to save someone one day," she said. "Your story holds power."

Ms. Haillie Lushetile
©SFHNamibia





IN THIS PICTURE: UNFPA provided support to young individuals to submit innovative solutions/ideas to the YouthConneKT Hacklab. One of Namibia's submissions was selected as a winner. Here, Ms. Lydia Zigomo, UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Director, presents the award to Ms. Selma Iyambo. ©UNFPA/Namibia

Investing in Young People

Investing in young people, especially those left behind such as youth living with disabilities, is a strategic focus area for UNFPA. Below are highlights of disability inclusion interventions in 2023 aimed at improving the lives of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and ensuring their meaningful participation.



PWDs participated in **drafting and validating the new HIV National Strategic Framework (NSF)** to address unique challenges in HIV prevention and treatment.



Provided **targeted Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) sessions** for students with visual impairments, empowering them with knowledge about SRHR.



Facilitated the **integration of the Washington Group questions into 2023 Namibia Population and Demographic Census**, enhancing data collection on disability demographics.



UNFPA and its implementing partners provided **targeted SRHR services during** the International Day for Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) commemoration, addressing the unique needs of PWDs.



Collaborated with the National Youth Council (NYC) to include youth with disabilities in **climate change training**, empowering marginalised youth to contribute to environmental discussions.



UNFPA actively engaged in **formulating the National Action Plan for Persons with Albinism**, collaborating with various stakeholders to address the unique challenges faced by individuals with albinism.



Census enumerators conducting an interview with a household in the Gobabis rural area. ©NSA

Generating Evidence

In 2023, UNFPA continued its commitment to supporting the government in producing crucial population data essential for policy formulation, strategic planning, programme monitoring, and evaluation. Here are highlights of some of UNFPA's key contributions to Namibia's efforts.



Provided technical support for Namibia's first digital Population and Housing Census (PHC), ensuring its successful completion. Specialised experts, including a **Census Chief Technical Advisor, a CSPro and data expert, and a Post-Enumeration Survey Consultant** aided in data cleaning, management and drafting of reports, enabling timely release of the census preliminary results and effective execution of all other census activities.



Supported the **development of Namibia's inaugural Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)**, finalised and launched in 2023 by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA). This strategy enhances coordination within Namibia's statistical system, laying the groundwork for comprehensive planning and policy monitoring.



Through rigorous and continuous monitoring of census activities, facilitated the **successful conclusion of the 2023 Population and Housing Census enumeration activities**.



Collaborated with World Health Organisation (WHO) to support **Namibia's Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system**. Noteworthy achievements include launching the **second Mortality and Causes of Deaths report**, analysing data from 2018 to 2021. This initiative led to the availability of timely and quality statistics for informed decision-making.



Facilitated the **loaning of 12,700 census tablets** from United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and Statistics South Africa, fostering South-South cooperation. Of those, 11,000 were transported from Togo and 1,700 from South Africa, enhancing a smooth undertaking of the 2023 PHC.

Resource Mobilisation

In 2023, UNFPA surpassed the annual target of US\$250,000 by mobilising US\$1,537.802 from the European Union to implement the Gender Equality / Combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Project in five regions of Namibia.





IN THIS PICTURE: In 2023, as part of our Japanese-funded Leaving No One Behind Project in collaboration with the #BeFree Movement, we conducted a two-day Shoe Laundry Training on September 6-7. This initiative aimed to empower 16 young women and men, such as Faustinia Kondjeni, by equipping them with income-generating skills to support their self-sufficiency and protect their sexual and reproductive health and rights. ©UNFPA/Namibia



IN THIS PICTURE: In 2023, UNFPA, in partnership with the Ministry of Sports, Youth National Service, Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises, civil society organisations, Financial Literacy Initiative, and Kongalend Financial Services, implemented the EmpowerWELL pilot project, funded by UNFPA's Strategic Investment Facility (SIF). The initiative aimed to empower women and youth (15-49 years) through skills development, sexual and reproductive (SRH) health services, and access to financial products, integrating gender-based violence prevention. Progress includes providing SRH services to **7,345** individuals, with **250** women and youth benefitting from microfinance services. ©UNFPA/Namibia



Ensuring rights and choices for all

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