



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY, POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 of 2021/22

P/Bag 13359 Windhoek, Namibia | Tel: +264 61 283 3111 | E-mail: genderequality@mgecw.gov.na | Website: www.mgecw.gov.na

DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD



AFRICA'S **AGENDA**
for Children **2040**
Fostering an Africa fit for Children

VISION

A caring and inclusive society where all Namibians enjoy a dignified life.

MANDATE

To ensure gender equality, poverty eradication and socio-economic development of targeted groups.

MISSION

To create, promote an enabling environment and equal opportunities for sustainable socio-economic development for the wellbeing of targeted groups.

PILLARS AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Gender Equality and Related Human Rights Advocacy
2. Accelerate Socio-Economic Development and Integration of women, girls and boys, marginalized communities and persons with disabilities
3. Stakeholder Coordination
4. Institutional Excellence

CORE VALUES

Integrity
Teamwork
Empathy
Inclusivity
Professionalism
Accountability
Accessibility

MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY, POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE

SENIOR MANAGEMENT



Hon. DOREEN SIOKA
Minister



Hon. BERNADETTE JAGGER
Deputy Minister



Hon. ALEXIA MANOMBE-NCUBE
Deputy Minister
Disability Affairs



Hon. ROYAL /Uilo/oo
Deputy Minister
Marginalised Communities



Ms. ESTHER LUSEPANI
Executive Director



Ms. MARTHA MBOMBO
Deputy Executive Director

CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION SERVICES



Ms HELENA ANDJAMBA
Director
Child Welfare Services



Ms AMELIA MUSUKUBILI
Deputy Director
Child Care Facility
and Protection

POLICY, PLANNING AND RESEARCH



Mr WILBARD NASHANDI
Director
Policy, Planning and Research



FILIMON SHIIMI
Deputy Director
Policy and Planning

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



Ms PENOSHINGE SHILILIFA
Deputy Director
Research & Legislation

SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES



Ms VALENTINA MULONGENI
Director
Social Protection Services



Ms LOURENCIA TJIHO
Deputy Director
Grant Reconciliation



Mr ALBERT BIWA
Deputy Director
Social Assistance

DISABILITY AFFAIRS AND MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES



Ms NIITA IIPINGE
Director
Disability affairs and
marginalised communities



Ms MERCY KUFUNA
Deputy Director
Disability Affairs



Mr GERSON KAMATUKA
Deputy Director
Maginalised Communities

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION



Ms ROSINA MUBONENWA
Director
Community Development
and Poverty Eradication



Ms LOIDE VELISHAVO
Deputy Director
Early Childhood Development

ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL SERVICES



Mr NICHLAS MBINGENEEKO
Director
Admin & General Services



Ms ALISA KANUTUS
Deputy Director
Finance



Mr SACKARIA SHEEHAMA
Deputy Director
HR Management



Mr JOHANNES K. EMBULA
Deputy Director
General Services

FOREWORD

It is evident that despite the many challenges faced in the previous year, COVID-19 has made it business unusual in many respects. Still being surrounded by the looming threat and the loss of loved ones and colleagues, I once again reiterate the need for all staff members to ensure that we all adhere to all set safety protocols and regulations. Negligence in these trying times would culminate in unwarranted loss of precious lives.

Let me also use this opportunity to thank all staff members that have gone beyond the call of duty, particularly our Social Workers, who have been our frontline workers.

The closing of Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres, has, however, been met with resistance in some quarters. Yet, it remains of cardinal importance, as mentioned by His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia, to note that adjustments aim to break the momentum of the pandemic, which is currently characterized by widespread transmission.

As the custodian of ECDs, the Ministry in total inaugurated six Centres and upgraded another two in the period under review.

Investing in early childhood development makes socio-economic sense, and thus the Ministry applauds all stakeholders that have over the years assisted the Ministry in the construction of ECDs nationwide.

This attests to the fact that ECD is not and should not be perceived as the role of Government alone, but something that requires concerted efforts.

It is worth noting that Namibia's pathfinding initiative of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children has been ranked 32nd in 31 countries in the world and the 9th in Africa.

This is because Government has taken deliberate actions to prevent violence against children, through legislative, policy and programmatic frameworks to enforce these laws.

The actions taken include the enactment of the Child Care and Protection Act, 2015 (Act No. 3 of 2015) and the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Committee known as the Permanent Task Force, the national violence against children Survey and the appointment of the Executive Director of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Protection as the Focal Person of the VAC prevention effort in the country.

The 2020 African Report on Child Well-being series, focused on the rights of girls. Titled "How Friendly are African Governments to Girls?" Namibia ranked 7th.

This is a clear indication of the country's commitment to the assurance of the protection and best interest of children.

Finally, If there was ever a time to deliberately engage effort to people, it's now. There is a need to fervently provide service seeing that COVID-19 has devastated quality service delivery efforts and the hopes of many falter.

Thus let our services be characterized by excellence. As we forge ahead, let us not relent in doing good as we strive to create an enabling environment and equal opportunities for all in Namibia, particularly given the unprecedented challenges we find ourselves in.

Stay safe



Esther Lusepani
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD



For the best interest of children

On 16 June 2020, Namibia joined other African Countries in order to commemorate the Day of the African Child (DAC). In 1991, the Assembly of Heads of States and Government of the then Organization of African Union (OAU) instituted the Day of the African Child (DAC) in memory of the 16th June 1976 student uprising in Soweto, South Africa.

At that time, students marched in protest against the poor quality of education they received and demanded to be taught in their own languages.

The DAC thus also celebrates the children of Namibia in particular and calls for introspection and commitment toward addressing the numerous challenges facing children across the continent.

The commemoration should be contextualised by State parties as a build-up to the realisation of the rights of children from family/community level and up to national and international levels.

The theme for the Day of the African Child (DAC) 2021 is ***“30 years after the adoption of the charter; accelerate implementation of Agenda 2040 for an Africa fit for children”*** The African Committee of Experts on the Right and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) selected the theme for the 2021 commemoration of the DAC.

The main commemoration of the DAC 2021 took place in Khomas Region, at the Namibia Children’s Home.

A Panel Discussion involving children representatives from KAYEC, NCH, LifelineChildline and various stakeholders focused on the Agenda 2040’s ten Aspirations which are as follows:

1. The existence of an effective child friendly national legislative, policy and institutional framework in all Member States.
2. Every child is protected against violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse.

3. Children benefit from a child-sensitive criminal justice system.
4. African children's view matter.
5. The African Children's Charter, as supervised by the African Children's Committee, to provide an effective continental framework for advancing children's rights.
6. The registration of every child's birth and other vital statistics.
7. Every child survives and has a healthy childhood.
8. Every child grows up well-nourished and with access to the necessities of life.
9. Every child benefits from the quality education.
10. Every child is free from the impact of armed conflicts and other disasters or emergencies.

Commemoration event 2021

Due to the rising number of COVID19 new infections and deaths, priority of safety had to be considered and innovative ways had to be engaged to commemorate the DAC.

A virtual ceremony took place from the Namibian Children's home (NCH) on 16 June 2021, with a various stakeholder linking in via zoom. The Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, Hon Doreen Sioka, delivered the keynote address. The event was also fortunate to witness a gesture of donations of baby essentials worth N\$10 000 from UNICEF.

The children at NCH delighted the audience with a performance which emphasized that Namibia has come a long way in child care and protection and can only move forward with steadfast partnership and coordination.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



Hon. Doreen Sioka, handing over the materials and equipment to beneficiaries at Kapako, Kavango West Region

In 2012 the former Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare submitted a project proposal to the Fund for African Women (FAW) from the AUC. The project proposal was titled: Agriculture, Food Security and Environment to implement the project, Rural Women's Economic Empowerment.

The approval was overall welcomed as it meant that the Ministry was placed in a position to further support women-owned Income-Generating Activities (IGAs) to expand their businesses, particularly in rural areas.

Hon. Doreen Sioka, Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, at a handing over of the materials and equipment to beneficiaries, mentioned that the support is an indication of the Ministry's commitment to utilizing resources at its disposal

to eradicate poverty. Hon Doreen Sioka urged beneficiaries to use these materials and equipment optimally to increase income and create employment for other women.

The Kunene, Kavango West and Zambezi regions have been selected to benefit from the particular fund because of the regional poverty profiles. The value of the materials and equipment handed over amounted to N\$ 63,010.55 in total.

DONATION ACCOUNT

In 2016 the former Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare established the MPESW Donation Account. The administration of the MPESW Donation Account, however, now falls under the auspices of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MGEPESW) following the merging of the two Ministries.



John Pombili washes his mask after a long day at school

The purpose of the MPESW Donation Account is to mobilise additional funds to offer remedial measures to persons suffering from extreme poverty, vulnerability and marginalization and to provide them with the opportunities to break the cycle of poverty.



Ministry officials and some community members at Onambaladi

Since the inception of the account, 23 projects across the country have been funded.

This includes, but is not limited to, the provision of water and gardening services in Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Omaheke, and Kunene Regions. Furthermore, the Ministry constructed a two-bedroom house for a senior citizen in Zambezi region, the fencing of the Bukalo open market and the construction of an ablution facility.

The Donation Account also paid municipal bills of three (3) residential child care facilities, and settled the mortgage bonds of one elderly citizen, while settling the rate and taxes of another. This included assisting with tuition fees for vulnerable students.

In Namibia, populations in the rural areas are still finding hard to access water with about 7.7 and 7.1 percent of the rural households that rely on unsafe water, In the same vein, 77% of the rural areas have no toilet facilities or have poor sanitation facilities (NSA,2016).

These water and sanitation projects enhance economic opportunities, whereas infrastructure and equipment costs vary relatively little from one project to another. Henceforth, the project's overall activities contribute to NDP 5 desired outcome "By 2022, the rural quality of life and socio-economic well-being has improved with rural poverty declining from 37% in 2010 to 25%".



The borehole has brought relief to many farmers and livestock

SHOOTING STAR ECD CENTRE

Hon Doreen Sioka, Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare officially opened the Early Childhood Centre in Lüderitz in !Nami#Nus Constituency, //Kharas region, on 8 April 2021. Established in 1964, the Shooting Star ECD Centre was the first Kindergarten in Lüderitz.



From humble beginnings

The ECD centre was made possible with the support from the Rotary Club of Lüderitz that went in partnership with Rotary Club of Bocholt (Germany) to invest in ECD for the disadvantaged members of that community.



The newly inaugurated Shooting Star ECD Centre

The Minister urged the respective Clubs to investments more in ECDs, saying, “The early foundation of a child’s life is important as it ensures that their early start is the right start, and “early childhood de-velopment should not be seen only as the role of the Government alone but something that requires concerted efforts”.

Hon Doreen Sioka accentuated that children deserve the best start in life and ECDs accord them that opportunity. “Early life from conception up to the age of 8 years is very critical in terms of building a strong foundation for healthy development, life-

long learning, well-being, successful communities, economic productivity and harmonious civil societies free from most ills such as Gender related issues,” noted Hon Doreen Sioka.

She further called on individuals and businesses operating in //Kharas Region and other regions to emulate the good example set by Rotary Club of Lüderitz and the Rotary Club of Bocholt (Germany) and plough back into communities where they operate to ensure that children receive the best support and care and thrive in pre-primary schooling until they complete their education at institutions of higher learning.



Taking education to the people

Coming straight of the back of handing over materials and equipment to beneficiaries at Kapako, Kavango West region the previous day, Hon. Doreen Sioka, went to to inauguration the Ncamagoro Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre, Ncamagoro constituency, on the 23 April 2021.

The Ncamagoro ECD Centres that were funded by the European Union through 11th European Development Fund (11th EDF) towards the Education Sector. The Ministry received the support of more than seventy million (N\$70 million). Kavango West was allocated N\$4.1 million for construction and upgrading of Five (5) ECD centres.

In total, the ministry constructed six ECD Centres and upgraded two in the quarter under review.

World Hunger Day

“Leave no one behind”



As the world comes together with a shared goal to end hunger on World Hunger Day, Namibia continues to forge ahead in an effort to achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

As the world reflects on the day, Ms Esther Lusepani, Executive Director, Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare remarked that “although being a structural food deficit country, the country is still able to ensure food security at the national level through imports and local production. High dependence on imports makes the country susceptible to high food prices, a situation that further compromises the ability of poor and most vulnerable households to access adequate food that is available in the country”.

It was reported that food and nutrition insecurity in Namibia is a major factor that leads to poverty, compounded by unequal incomes, recurrent natural hazards where cyclical drought and flood severely affect people’s livelihoods.

Despite this circumstances, Namibia prides itself with having made good progress in reducing the proportion of the population that is food insecure from 34% in 2016 to 18% in 2020.

To address food security, the Government continues to implement strategies to tackle food insecurity. The President of Namibia, HE DrHage Geingob, affirmed this commitment by creating institution mandated to lead and coordinate national efforts to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality.

This commitment is also reflected in the Harambe Prosperity Plan I and II. In 2015 the Food Bank Programme was established to eradicate poverty and food insecurity in the urban and peri-urban area as well as create job opportunities and support the Growth at Home Strategy of the government through sourcing locally produced food from MSME’s.

The Programme is operational in 28 constituencies with a total beneficiary of 9,967 households and 42, 082 persons. The female-headed households accounted for 78.4%, while male-headed households accounted for 21.6%. Furthermore, Namibia’s fight against hunger stretches at all levels, including school feeding programs. This is to stress the significance that education plays a vital role in breaking the cycles of poverty and hunger by eliminating social disparities, creating opportunities for people, and empowering entire communities.

Moreover, the Government has finalised the revised National Food and Nutrition Security Policy to improve the implementation of food and nutrition security as part of effective governance of food and nutrition security.

“It is imperative to interrogate ourselves, our communities we live in and determine how we will build a well-managed economy without hunger and poverty. Recent events such as COVID-19 have demonstrated that we are all interconnected that our individual and communal activities influence one another,” remarked Ms Esther Lusepani.

**ARE YOU VACCINATED
AGAINST COVID-19?**



Hon. Doreen Sioka
Minister



Ms Esther Lusepani
Executive Director

**THE MGEPSW ENCOURAGES YOU
TO GET VACCINATED**

TOGETHER we can
CURB the **SPREAD**

PATHFINDING

In December 2020, Namibia became the 32nd country and 9th African country to join the pathfinding initiative of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.

Pathfinding countries are those whose government leaders make a formal, public commitment to comprehensive action to end all forms of violence against children; and request to become a pathfinder within the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.

This statement comes after Namibia has implemented several key policies to end violence against children. Firstly, in 2019 the Child Care and Protection Act, 2015 (Act No. 3 of 2015) came into operation, which sets out principles relating to the care and protection of children in the country.

Secondly, Namibia also conducted a Violence against Children Survey (VACS) in 2019, whose findings inform the process of developing a Data-to-Action Plan on ending violence and expanding that Plan into a five-year roadmap.

All these are led by an established Inter-Ministerial Committee which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of child protection interventions, and accountability at a national level.

Thus Namibia became a pathfinding country. It means that the country has joined global alliance to END Violence against Children.

Thus Namibia has made a public/country commitment to END VAC. The MGEPSW, responsible for children, is in the process of developing a National Plan of Action on VAC (roadmap) that will be used for resource mobilization to implement interventions aimed at VAC in Namibia.

The pathfinding was approved by the Cabinet and it was recommended that the MGEPSW leads the implementation of the initiative; and the Executive Director of the MGEPSW serves as the focal person to lead the in-country process and to collaborate with stakeholders on the development and implementation of the Plan.

The Development of the roadmap, which is underway, included consultations with officials from different key Ministries and Civil Society Organizations dealing with children issues, as well as UNICEF.

Children were also consulted so as to ensure that partnership standards on child participation are upheld and their views are incorporated into the country roadmap.

FRANKIE FREDERICKS FOUNDATION

The After School Centre Wrestling Club received a donation of food items and toiletries on the 15th June 2021 through the Frankie Fredericks Foundation.

The former track and field athlete, Mr. Frankie Fredericks, visited the After School Centre on 17 March 2021 with Mr. Letu Hamhola, Chief Sports Officer in the Ministry of Sports, Youth and National Service.

The visit was aimed at motivating wrestlers that will attend the Olympic Qualification and African Wrestling Championship. Since the wrestlers always need to camp before a tournament, the foundation decided

to assist with food items and toiletries. The African Wrestling Championships has been postponed to October 2021 due to the Covid19 pandemic. Four (4) ASC wrestlers will partake in the tournament scheduled to take place in El Jadida, Morocco.



Ms Helena Andjamba, Director Child Welfare Services, receives the donation on behalf of the Ministry.

CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION ACT

The Child Care and Protection Act 3 of 2015 set out to give effect to the rights of children as contained in the Namibian Constitution and international agreements binding on Namibia on principles relating to the best interests of children.

Mandatory Reporting

Mandatory reporting requires certain professionals who have a “reasonable belief” that a child “may be in need of protection” to report the suspected abuse to a State-employed Social Worker or a Police Officer.

This requirement supersedes all rules about professional confidentiality, except for confidential discussions between lawyers and their clients.

Failure to report is a crime, and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding N\$20, 000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

Professionals mandated to report?

- school principals, teachers, school counsellors;
- doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists;
- Psychologists, psychological counsellors;
- physiotherapists, speech/occupational therapists;
- traditional leaders, traditional health practitioners;
- lawyers (except for privileged communications);
- religious leaders;
- labour inspectors;
- staff members at registered child care facilities;
- private social workers, child protection organisations; or
- any other person who performs professional/ official duties for children.

Rules on reporting are important since children may not be able to ask for help on their own due to their young age, fear, shame or lack of information about where to get help, and what has happened to them. Reports can be done on a prescribed form.

SHELTERS

The Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MGEPESW) undertook consultative visits to different regions to introduce the initiative of operationalization of shelters for Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Violence against Children (VAC) and Trafficking in Person (TIP) utilizing volunteers.

The main point of discussions were:

- Operationalization of the shelter
- Selection Criteria; and
- Modalities of recruitment & Budget

The National level was represented by the Advisor to the Hon. Minister and technical staff from the Child Welfare Directorate.

While at regional level the meetings were attended by the Governors, Chief Regional Officers, Directors of Planning, and Councilors of the specific constituencies where the shelters are located.

The regional staff members, i.e. Regional Heads and Social Workers who will be supervising volunteers were part of the meetings.

The consultations took place during the month of May and June 2021 ie. 26 May in Khomas; 03rd June in //Kharas; 04th June in Hardap; 11th June in Ohangwena; 14th June in Omusati and 15th June in Kunene.

There are more consultations to be undertaken in Zambezi and Kavango East Regions.

THE CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION ACT NO 3 OF 2015



The Act gives effect to the rights of children as contained in the Namibian Constitution and international agreements binding on Namibia and set out principles relating to the best interests of children and more.

Child Online Sexual Exploitation or Abuse

Refers to the abuse, harm and/or exploitation of children through various means such as grooming, live streaming, consumption of child sexual material, coercing and blackmailing children for sexual purposes.

How does it work?

1. Online Grooming of children

Adults/strangers build a relationship with a child through the use of the internet or other digital technologies to facilitate sexual contact with the child. This is done through complimenting the child, showing excessive kindness, giving gifts or money. The catch is that they ask the children to keep the relationship a "secret".

2. Sexting

It's "self-production" of sexual images, or as "the creating, sharing and forwarding of sexually suggestive nude or semi-nude images through the internet, particularly on mobile phones. After building a trusting relationship with the child, the adult will then coerced the child to produce such materials and share them with him/her. Such materials are then used to manipulate the child to participate in other exploitative acts.

3. Live streaming

This involves the coercion of a child to participate in sexual activities, alone or with other persons, which is primarily live-streamed and uploaded for download. Often, the persons watching remotely are those that request for such content and/

or ordered the sexual abuse of the child, and dictate how the act should be carried out. Such persons may be paying for the abuse to take place.

4. Sexual Extortion

Also known as "sextortion", is the blackmailing of a person with the help of (self-generated) images of that person to extort sexual favours, money, or other benefits from her/him under the threat of sharing the material beyond the consent of the depicted person (e.g. posting images on social media).

These are the forms of child sexual exploitation that occur online and children find it difficult to share their experiences with their parents/caregivers or guardians. It is therefore important that parents should be on the lookout for the following signs:

- Withdrawal from routine social activities
- Anger and aggressive behaviour
- Substance abuse (alcohol or drugs)
- Rebellious or deviant behaviour
- Attempt suicide or self-harm
- Depression
- Changes in behaviour
- Inappropriate sexual contact with other children or statements that he or she was sexually abused
- Inappropriate sexual behavior or knowledge (considering the child's age)

These are also the same sign for a child who has been abused offline.

What to do when you suspect that a child has been abused?

Seek help from a professional immediately by calling the

- Lifeline ChildLine Help Line 116
- Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare 061 283 3111 (Ask to speak to a Social Worker)
- or the Namibian Police



THE CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION ACT NO 3 OF 2015

The Act gives effect to the rights of children as contained in the Namibian Constitution and international agreements binding on Namibia and set out principles relating to the best interests of children and more.

Reporting of children in need of protective services

Rules on reporting are important since children may not be able to ask for help on their own – due to their young age, fear, shame or lack of information about where to get help.

- Mandatory reporting requires certain professionals to make a report if they suspect that a child needs help. Failure to report is a crime.

Who are the professionals mandated to report?

- school principals, teachers, school counsellors
- doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists
- Psychologists, psychological counsellors
- physiotherapists, speech/occupational therapists
- traditional leaders, traditional health practitioners
- lawyers (except for privileged communications)
- religious leaders
- labour inspectors
- staff members at registered child care facilities
- private social workers, child protection organisations or
- any other person who performs professional/official duties for children

Voluntary reporting encourages the general public (including a child) to make good faith reports if they suspect that a child needs help. This is different from mandatory reporting because this is done on a voluntary basis.

You can seek help from a professional immediately by calling the MGEPE SW **061 283 3111** (Ask to speak to a Social Worker)



THE CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION ACT NO 3 OF 2015

The Act gives effect to the rights of children as contained in the Namibian Constitution and international agreements binding on Namibia and set out principles relating to the best interests of children and more.

Abandoned children/baby dumping?

What is baby dumping?

Baby-dumping: Baby-dumping is the informal term used in Namibia for abandoning an infant and thereby exposing it to danger and possible death. (This term is not used in the Child Care and Protection Act, but it is well-known to the public. The Child Care and Protection Act No 3 of 2015 refers to “abandoned children”).

When is it a crime?

Depending on the circumstances, baby-dumping could give rise to criminal charges of murder (intentionally causing the death of another person), culpable homicide (negligently causing the death of another person) or exposing an infant (intentionally exposing and abandoning an infant in circumstances which make it likely that death from exposure will result).

Where the baby dies, these cases often include the separate charge of concealment of birth, which is a statutory offence in terms of the General Law Amendment Ordinance 13 of 1962.

It is a crime in terms of the Child Care and Protection Act for a parent,

guardian, or any person with parental responsibilities and rights in respect of a child indefinitely/temporarily deliberately abandon/leave a child without proper parental care and supervision. The penalty is a fine of up to N\$50000, imprisonment for up to ten years, or both.

When is it not crime?

The Child Care and Protection Act makes exceptions to parents who abandons a child not to be prosecuted for abandonment of the child if the child is left in the physical control of a person at an approved authority and the child shows no signs of abuse, neglect or malnutrition.

What is an approved authority?

- A hospital
- A police station
- A fire station
- A school
- A place of safety
- A Children's home (Residential Child Care Facility)
- An adult who is approved as a place of safety by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare

Approved authorities are required to report the case to a social worker from the MGEPEWSW on 061 283 3111

PSYCHOSOCIAL CAMP - FARM KAUKURUS

The officials started with the psychosocial camp on 06 May 2021, whereby they collected all the children that were identified from their homes and also at the same time parents to sign the indemnity form for each child.



Children enjoying the outdoors



Roundig off a busy day

Some children were taken to their biological family farms to spend their school holiday with their own families.

On 07 May 2021 the journey to farm Kaukurus started and all children arrived safely. Ten (10) children (male) were brought to the farm with their age ranging from 10 - 17 years.

All the children are from the school integration program. All the children were introduced to all the officials and their respective responsibilities.

The officials together with the children came up with the rules and punitive measures if one breaks the rules. Everyone was involved in the process of deciding on rules and responsibilities including the Caretaker Mr. Kondjeni Inari. At the same time, a

cleaning timetable was also compiled, whereby two children per day, at a time were grouped to clean after breakfast, lunch, and dinner and also lead the group in exercising for the day. On Monday, 10 May 2021 a daily timetable was introduced to the children by the Social Worker.

Activities:

- 10h00 – 12h00 they had group work with a break in-between and classes that involved reading and writing or solving math problems.
- Individual counselling took place from 12h00 – 13h00 and continued after lunch, 14h00 till 16h00.
- The children swim and play soccer during recreation.
- Sundays the children were taken to church and every evening they had evening devotion.

Seven (7) more children were brought to the farm of whom one child was from the school integration program. One girl (12 years old) was among the boys.

Statistics:

- Eleven (11) children are from the school integration program and six (6) are children that were removed from the streets who are from homes that spend their days on the streets and return to their homes at night. In total the Psychosocial Camp accommodated seventeen (17) children of whom 16 were male. and 1 female. and 1 female.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE

The Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MGEPSW) together with other stakeholders were invited to attend a consultative meeting in Otjiwarongo with members from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Social Development and Family Affairs. The workshop took place in Otjiwarongo from 17 to 21 May 2021. Presentations were done to inform the Honorable

Members about the mandate of the Ministry, the programmes, achievements, challenges as well as areas of collaboration with the Standing Committee.

Two staff members from the Directorates Child Care and Protection and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment were assigned to give the Ministerial presentation at the workshop.



Meeting participants

MALE ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

During the Quarter under review, in efforts to eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls, the Directorate of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the MGEPSW in collaboration with Lifeline/ChildLine Namibia and the Employment Equity Commission organized a three-day male engagement workshop targeting MGEPSW Head Office male staff members from 9 - 11 June 2021.

Similar workshops were conducted in 14 regions targeting community members, Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) and Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE) field officers.

The objectives of the workshops were to:

1. Raise awareness on GBV prevention;
2. Encourage men to be the catalyst in addressing GBV;
3. Raise awareness about the risks that men take which puts them at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS;
4. Raise awareness on GBV related laws and sexual harassment;
5. To sensitise field officers and community members on GBV laws.

The training for Head Office male staff members was hosted in Windhoek, Khomas Region. The three-day program was officially opened by the Honourable Royal /Ui/o/oo, Deputy Minister for Marginalized Communities in the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication, and Social Welfare, on 9 June 2021.

The Deputy Minister stated in his remarks that the training aims to raise awareness about GBV prevention, to encourage men to act as catalysts in addressing GBV.

This is to provide male participants and traditional leaders with an overview of the DREAMS project and Male Engagement Activities, and to educate them about GBV-related laws, including sexual harassment. This demonstrates the Government's commitment to gender equality and the prevention of Gender-Based Violence. All these meetings were held under the parasol of the COVID-19 regulations.



Official opening of the workshop at NIPAM, Windhoek

Correspondingly, the Deputy Minister stated that numerous reports, including the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), indicate that one in every three women has experienced sexual abuse at the hands of a man. This is a serious concern, more so because of the multitude of programs designed to support these women. Moreover, he stated that it is sometimes considered that men and boys are unconcerned about their health, which may be a result of social expectations that males should be tough; as a result, seeking care for their health or GBV is viewed as a sign of weakness.

The Deputy Minister further stated that one of the National Gender Policy's guiding principles is the role of men. This principle recognizes the critical role of men and boys in preventing gender-based violence, HIV and AIDS, and promoting gender equality, which is why it is critical to have programs and activities targeted at men and to have conversations about GBV and how they can contribute to addressing it in their homes and communities.

Honourable Royal /Ui/o/oo urged all men attending the workshop and men in general in our communities to join the fight against GBV, but this does not negate the possibility of mutual respect in spaces shared by men and women. As males, we must band together to combat GBV.

He urged attendees to abstain from tolerating GBV. The Deputy Minister urged them to advocate for women's rights and to oppose social norms that privilege violence against women.

In a nutshell, the workshops addressed issues of gender equality, gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS prevention and its relationship to GBV, and Sexual and Reproductive Health, GBV laws as well as sexual harassment and the provisions of the 2019 Convention Against Violence and Harassment.

MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

The Division Marginalized Communities is mandated to integrate Marginalized Communities (San, Ovaherero and Ovambo communities) into the mainstream of the Namibian economy. The Division ensures this integration by focusing on Education Support, Livelihood Support and Land Redistribution Programme.

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME

- The Division Marginalized Communities provides financial support in terms of tuition fees, accommodation and monthly allowances to 205 students enrolled at various tertiary institutions and provides transport to over 1800 learners in different regions during school holidays and out-weekends. The Division has budgeted N\$ 12 million for all the initiatives pertaining to Education Support.
- The Ministry has, through the Palms for Life Fund, constructed an ECD Centre in Omaheke Region for the Marginalized Communities, and conducted assessments for the construction of more ECD centres in other regions.
- Dr. Libertina Amathila, Former Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, continues to assist the Division in integrating Marginalized Communities through the provision of donations and sponsorships. Dr. Amathila played a significant role in the establishment of Otjomuho Primary School in Kunene region. She recently donated towards the construction of two Teachers accommodation blocks at Otjomuho Primary School which were officially handed over in March and May 2021 respectively.
- Monthly student stipends for students benefitting from the Education Support Program are paid up to date and tuition as well as accommodation fees of various tertiary institutions.

**Education Support
Livelihood Feeding Program
Special Feeding Programme (SFP)**

- A total of 29 004 households in the regions of Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Kavango East, Kavango West, Zambezi, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati and Kunene continue to benefit from the Special Feeding Programme (SFP) for Marginalized Communities.

Income Generating Activities

- Development Planners in the regions continues to render assistance with the revitalization of respective community garden projects and provide support in the implementation of different income-generating projects (beekeeping, charcoal, animal husbandry, brickmaking, etc.) in their respective regions.
- The Marginalized Communities in Omakame in Omusati region are currently hard at work to set up a community garden project.

Burial Services

The Division is mandated to accord dignified burial services to the Marginalized Communities within the available budget which has been effectively implemented as a matter of urgency as the need arises.

AWARENESS-RAISING

The Division has made it mandatory to ensure that there is constant awareness raising on the rights of the indigenous people in Namibia. This includes sharing communication on various media platforms and through community consultative meetings.

Development Planners in the regions have carried out awareness-raising sessions in the regions of Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Ohangwena, Kavango East and Kunene. The primary objective of these sessions is to discuss pertinent issues on the provision of the special feeding programme, education support and livelihood support.

In some cases, information is shared in collaboration with another line Ministry to discuss services offered by their Ministries eligible to the Marginalized Communities.

BLOOMING GARDEN



The gardening project at NCH is coordinated by Ms. Siamwanda and Mr. Simusi. The children and staff members at NCH work on a schedule to make terms to maintain the garden. Currently tomatoes, green peppers and onions are being grown in the garden.

The gardening project provides an opportunity for children to work together with Child Care Officers and Cleaners in the garden.

KARATE GRADUATION

The Namibian Children's Home (NCH) is proud to announce that twenty four students graduated in Karate at NCH Hall in April 2021. These students are being trained by Mr. Sensei Willem.



BIG WINNERS



On Saturday, 24 April 2021, eight (8) boxers took part in a tournament at the After School Centre (ASC) which was organized by Salute Boxing Academy.

Imene Elifas, Kapede Shaniga and Fillips //Gaseb from the The ASC made the podium winning gold medals in the junior category.

STAFF MOBILITY

No	Types of Mobility	Number of staff members
1	Appointments	11
2	Promotions/Transfers	10
3	Retirements	2
4	Resignations	5
5	Dismissals	0
6	Deaths	2

3 FACTORS TO HELP YOU MAKE SAFER CHOICES

WHEN YOU'RE IN AN AREA OF
WIDESPREAD COVID-19 TRANSMISSION

LOCATION



SAFER



LESS SAFE



Open air spaces safer than enclosed spaces

PROXIMITY



SAFER



LESS SAFE



Farther away from others safer than close together

TIME



SAFER



LESS SAFE



Shorter time periods with others are safer

REMEMBER,

IT'S ALWAYS SAFER TO:



KNOW YOUR RISK.
LOWER YOUR RISK.



World Health
Organization

MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY, POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE

2111 Juvenis Building, Independence Avenue - P/Bag 13359 Windhoek, Namibia - Tel: +264 61 283 3111

E-mail: genderequality@mgecw.gov.na - Website: www.mgepesw.gov.na

Facebook: @MGEPESWNAMIBIA - Twitter: @MGEPESW_Namibia