



2030 Agenda meets Urban Climate Action!

Informal Spaces to Liveable Places (Windhoek, Namibia): *Climate Sensitive Settlement Development in Onyika*

Background

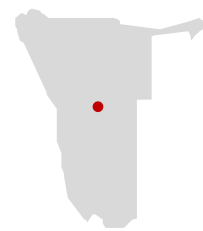
Namibia is experiencing rapid urbanisation. In 2018, the percentage of the urban outweighed the rural population for the first time. The major share of urban growth is informal with 30 to 40 percent of the Namibian population estimated to be living without effective access or the means to afford formal land. This is most pronounced in the capital city of Windhoek where the growth of informal housing, at an annual rate of 7.3 percent, nearly doubles the growth rate of formal housing, with 3.9 percent. Trends suggest that shacks will be the predominant form of housing by 2025. The living conditions in informal settlements are precarious. Substandard housing, poor sanitation levels and lack of basic services not only carry health risks but also result in very poor resilience to natural hazards and increased risk and vulnerability to and through climate change. According to the National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2020: “Namibia had to deal with an increasing number of floods and drought related events in the past decade. Climate change is likely to exacerbate the impact and frequency of these extreme events.” Settlement development therefore must incorporate climate change sensitive planning to raise the adaptation and resilience capacities of such settlements.

Sustainable Neighbourhoods and Tenure Security

GIZ's project *Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Development (ISUD)* supports Namibian efforts towards improving the living and housing conditions of residents of informal settlements. Part of this is the implementation of a methodology, which provides more affordable and accessible land rights to people living in informal settlements than the standard formalisation procedures. The Flexible Land Tenure System (FLTS) confers individual titles to residential plots, as well as group rights over the public spaces of the settlement block. This entails the organisation of an association, which manages the land affairs of the

Published by

community and provides an organised development partner for inclusive urban development.



Windhoek,
Namibia

Project Intervention

Tenure security allows the dwellers to develop long-term perspectives for their home and neighbourhood. Therefore, the objective of the Climate Sensitive Settlement Development measure is the implementation of participatory and climate-sensitive planning, with an organised settlement community that is part of the FLTS. Together with the community, the measure aims to build a shared vision for the to be legalised settlement and to shape a concrete intervention that improves their living conditions and climate resilience.

Participatory Climate-sensitive Planning

Community workshops have been conducted to facilitate interactive participatory planning, which addresses the local challenges such as public space accessibility and social equipment or housing in a climate-sensitive and integrated manner using physical models of the settlement, scenarios. Special attention was paid to the inclusion of people with disabilities and the needs of other vulnerable groups such as women, children, young people and the elderly. As a result, concrete measures were agreed upon. These include a storm water system in combination with resilient green spaces along a drainage area and the riverbed that crosses the settlement and is prone to flash floods. The planning process itself was aided by recent drone imagery of the settlement and the collected data of a disaggregated household survey.



Expected Results

The participatory design and planning process supports the dwellers to actively adopt their neighbourhood as their own and take responsibility for its further development. Through its participatory, inclusive nature, the project contributes to SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), as it gives vulnerable groups a say, and enables municipal decision makers and officials to gain an insight into their needs. The community obtains a vision for the ongoing consolidation of the settlement, alongside a self-proven methodology for executing further measures in cooperation with the municipality. The resilience and functionality of the settlement increases as the project contributes to SDG 13 (Climate Action) through the constructed facility. Besides the implementation of a participatory and climate-sensitive planning approach, the project raises awareness on climate risks and provides guidelines and information material to serve as best practice for resilient and sustainable settlement development in Namibia thereby contributing to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). The development of a policy paper will enable and encourage the replication of the project.

piloting the FLTS, as well as the community engagement work and construction of the chosen development measure. The Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) and Research and Information Services of Namibia (RAISON) are developing the guideline and policy paper. While NNF brings in the environmental perspective, RAISON contributes to the planning and urban development perspective and facilitates the community meetings with support of the City. The GIZ-*ISUD* supports the development of the land tenure system and will ensure the coordination and quality management of the measure. It will advise the city in terms of participatory planning tools that ensure the inclusion of women and girls and people with disabilities in the process.

Funding

The project implementation takes place from July 2019 to February 2021. EUR 125,000 are provided by BMZ through the GIZ Sector Project *CityRegions2030*; additional EUR 20,000 are co-financed by the BMZ-funded GIZ project *Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Development (ISUD)*, which, together with its local partners, coordinates the implementation of the model measure.

Implementation Partners

The City of Windhoek (Department of Housing, Property Management and Human Settlement) is responsible for

Published by:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Address
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

On behalf of
German Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Division 423: Environmental Policy, Urban
Development, Mobility, Recycling Management,
Marine Protection

Bonn, 2020

On behalf of



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

