SHACK DWELLERS FEDERATION OF NAMIBIA(SDFN) NAMIBIA HOUSING ACTION GROUP(NHAG)

Community driven informal settlements upgrading through partnership

Windhoek
February 2019

Freedom square informal settlement before upgrading



Freedom square before upgrading

Upgrading background



Before upgrading there were only 3 communal taps serving over 1000 households. People had to queue up to 5 hours to get water. They had to pay N\$ 1 per 25 liter container for water.

Implementation

- Negotiated with Gobabis Municipality to upgrade informal settlements
- Team (Gobabis Municipality –Councillors & Officials, SDFN/NHAG, Freedom Square Informal Settlement community visited South Africa-Cape Town to learn more about informal settlement upgrading through partnership
- Discussions about partnering to upgrade informal settlement in Gobabis started
- MOV was signed between SDFN/NHAG and Gobabis Municipality
- NHAG engaged relevant stakeholders to be part of the upgrading process such as NUST, MURD, MLR, Omaheke Regional Council and Office of the Governor
- The following steps of upgrading were first done:
- Community meetings to share with Freedom communities, profiling, enumerations, feed back to the Gobabis Municipality and entire freedom square community
- Planning studios supported by NUST, SDI, Gobabis Municipality & NHAG

Upgrading

Through planning studios Freedom Square community planned how the they want the new look of Freedom Square. And this plan was formalised by NHAG and Gobabis Municipality



Servicing through training



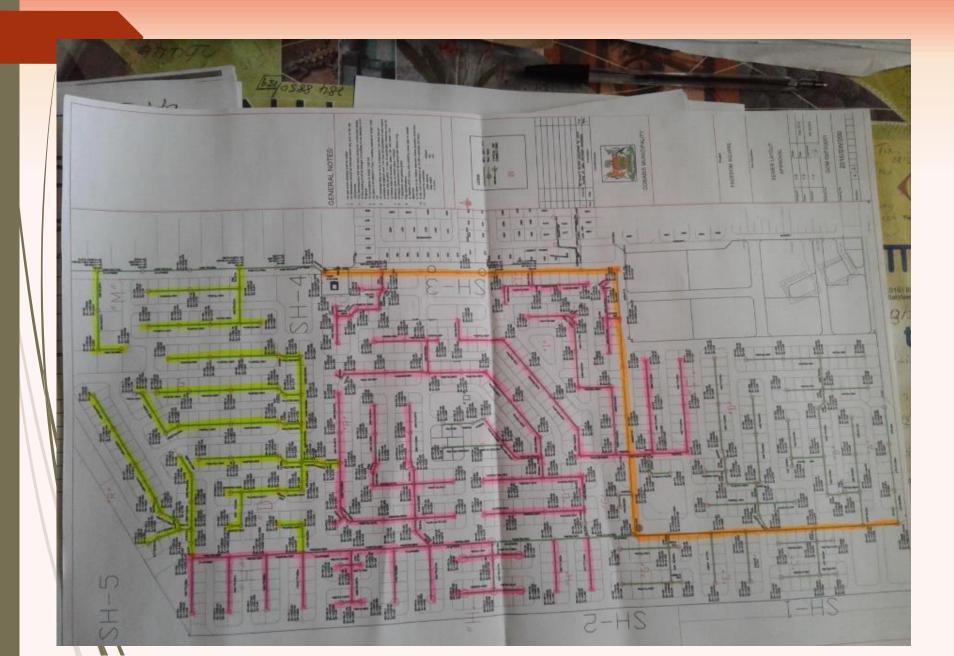
- Gobabis Municipality assisted with designs of services (water& sewer) and bill of quantities.
- NHAG negotiated with Ministry of Urban and Rural Dev (MURD) for funding the services.
- MURD allocates N\$ 8 million for services.
- Community decides that installations of services be done through training.
- Entire Freedom Square community participated in the digging of water pipes trenches, 44 people trained how to install water pipes.
- Installation training completed in 8 months.
- Community request prepaid water meters instead of conventional water meters. Water meters were not part of the funding. NHAG secured funding for 200 meters from international support organisation.

Servicing continued

- Community had to pay back for meters so that other water meters could be bought for others till all has water meters.
- Community decides who get a water meter on the formula that each block get meters.
- All 8 blocks got water meters and community got water from those who has meters.
- The water tapping improved, no more long queues.
- After the completion of water pipes installation, community requested that the trenches for sewer be done by machineries cause it was too rocky and very deep as 4 meters. Negotiation with a contractor that was doing work in Gobabis to assist with machineries achieved the desired results for an amount of N\$ 1,8 million to do the excavation but also offered to assist with pipe laying for a low tariff. Excavation started in June 2018, currently 75% completed. Services is for all1030 plots including public open spaces.



Services layout of Freedom Square







- There are 330 manholes on the freedom square layout plan
- To date 175 manholes has been constructed that started August 2018 with a team of 10 including one women.





Construction of concrete signs for Gate valves and Fire hydrants is also done by the community

Lesson learnt and impacts

- Community took ownership of the development process.
- Skills development community trained
- More community members are now able to lead and initiate own development
- No one was moved out of Freedom Square during upgrading, process was smooth because it is driven by the community
- Community had to make choices of their priorities in terms of development
- Creation of lessons learnt for other communities and other towns as well as international community

Way forward

- The project is being piloted through Flexible Land Tenure Act by the Ministry of Land Reform.
- Land Reform Ministry appointed SPC to formalise the planning process
- NHAG advises Freedom Square residents to discuss the way forward, perhaps next step should be construction of houses and have toilets.
- Municipality to give development rights for incremental housing

Scale up to national level:

- Create opportunities for scaling up the land delivery
- Create opportunities for citizens participation
- Create opportunities for partnership and provision of affordable services



Thank you