

**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
- MOU 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 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 all 1030 plots including public open spaces.

Services continued



Services layout of Freedom Square



Services continued



Services continued



- 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.



Services continued



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

