

NAM's emergency preparedness and response strengthened

12-16 February, Otjiwarongo: UN Namibia, under the leadership of the UN Emergency and Humanitarian Focal Points (EHFPS), supported the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in organising and executing a workshop on emergency preparedness and response (EPR).



Participants receiving emergency preparedness and response training. WFP Namibia

Opening the workshop, UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) to Namibia Kiki Gbeho said that Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is not only an integral part of social and economic development, but it is also essential if development is to be sustainable for the future.

“If we are to build the future we want, a future that is sustainable, with less people pushed below the poverty line due to crises; with less livelihoods and lives lost due to disasters, we must be prepared,” said Gbeho.

The Deputy Minister of OPM, Hon. Christine //Hoebes emphasised that the workshop will provide GRN with an opportunity to reflect and deliberate on the DRR in Namibia. She also highlighted that the training will enhance the ability of regions to respond when a disaster occurs.

Throughout the workshop, regional EPR contingency plans were reviewed and tested using the multi-hazards EPR methodology. FAO and OCHA provided support during this review process.

Personnel from the 14 regional councils and various line ministries also gained knowledge and skills, improved their understanding and increased capacity for EPR. This was enhanced through a simulation exercise, supported by WFP. The training positioned the participants to be better equipped and prepared to adequately respond to emergencies or hazards

in an effort to save lives and protect critical assets.

At the closing of the workshop, WFP Representative to Namibia, Bai Mankay Sankoh emphasised that executing a workshop of this nature is an important step for the country, not only for the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) but for all stakeholders, including the UN. “When disasters occur, they don’t differentiate between the poor or rich, government or private sector or non-governmental organisations,” said Sankoh. ***SDG 11 ‘Sustainable Cities and Communities’***