

## Namibia commemorates World AIDS Day throughout the country

Windhoek – Together with the world, Namibia commemorated World AIDS Day 2017 on December 1, 2017. This year’s main event took place in Katima Mulilo, with the theme “Right to Health” focusing on strengthening cross border collaboration with its neighbouring countries Angola, Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

On every World AIDS Day, the world looks back to remember family members and friends who have died from AIDS-related illnesses and recommit solidarity with all who are living with or affected by HIV. The importance of highlighting the right to health is critical due to the challenges that people living with and affected by HIV face in fulfilling that right. The right to health is a fundamental human right and the world will not achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) –which include the target of ending AIDS by 2030—without people attaining their right to health. The right to health is interrelated with a range of other rights, including the rights to sanitation, food, decent housing, healthy working conditions and a clean environment.

The main event in Katima Mulilo took place on November 30 to December 1; this included sharing of best cases practices between implementers across borders, a panel discussion on strengthening collaborations, a candle light vigil, handing over of newly built ART facilities, and launching of AMICAALL condoms and innovating training tools.



On the eve of World AIDS Day, Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr Haufiku, participated in a panel discussion with Minister of Angola and Permanent Secretary of Zambia to discuss the right to health in cross border areas.



WAD participants march through Katima Mulilo to begin the events on December 1 advocating for #MyRightToHealth

On 6 December, the City of Windhoek (CoW) hosted its own commemoration for World AIDS Day with keynote speeches from the Mayor of Windhoek, Cllr. Mueseke Kazapua, and UNAIDS Country Director, Dr. Tharcisse Barihuta. Presentations focused on the need for greater male engagement in the HIV response. The day concluded with an annual football match.

UN staff also commemorated World AIDS Day during their Staff Day celebrations on 7 December by reflecting on key prevention messages and the importance on their right to health.