



## Stakeholders to support Tsumkwe Development

**21 November, Windhoek:** A stakeholder meeting hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation (MHETI) took place on 21 November 2018 at the UN House.

The main objective of the stakeholder meeting was to raise greater awareness on the vast need for support for the Tsumkwe Community and to rally financial assistance to implement proposed programmes.

The stakeholder meeting was attended by representatives of the Diplomatic Corps in Namibia, the private sector and civil society organizations alongside other implementing partners.

The MHETI and UNESCO had a chance to visit the Tsumkwe constituency this year, to identify the needs of the Tsumkwe communities. These include improving access to Early and Childhood Development (ECD), technical and vocational education and training (TVET), youth and women's empowerment programs and accommodation and hostels for learners, among others. Most of these needs are well in line with UNESCO's mandate, hence the support to the MHETI's efforts to mobilise resources to address the needs of the marginalised communities of the Tsumkwe constituency.

During his remarks Dr. Jean Pierre Ilboudo, said, "UNESCO works to create the conditions for dialogues among civilisation, cultures and people, based upon respect of commonly shared values. It is through these dialogues that the world can achieve global visions for sustainable development encompassing observance of human rights, mutual respect and the alleviation of poverty, all of which are at the heart of UNESCO's mission and activities."

The Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Hon. Dr. Itah Kandji-Murangi, during her remarks, highlighted that the major challenges in education include unqualified teachers and students dropping out as a result of the need to travel long distances as a result of a lack of accommodation for learners.

She went on to state that around 30% of the constituency's inhabitants are farming with domestic animals, and more than 70% of the inhabitants are farming with crops. However, crop production is being done at a very low scale. That is why Government is assisting 80% of Tsumkwe residents with the San Feeding Programme, and 100% of the residents with Drought Relief Food.