

## Students encouraged to #donatelife at blood donation public lecture



The Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia, the World Health Organization (WHO) Namibia and the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) hosted a public lecture on blood donation on Wednesday, 16 August under the theme, "Give Blood, Give Now, Give Often".

The lecture, the third of its kind, aimed towards educating the public on the importance of blood donation, with particular emphasis on the shortage of consistent blood donors in the country resulting in a shortage in supply.

WHO Namibia's Dr. Desta Tiruneh stated that over 112 million blood donations are collected globally, but mostly in high income countries. As only 1% of the Namibian population are blood donors, Dr. Tiruneh encouraged the youth to donate blood and to engage with their communities and encourage their friends, families who are able to donate blood, to donate.



Providing safe and adequate blood through donation also contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an action plan of people, planet and prosperity aimed at reducing poverty, promoting peace and protecting the environment. Blood transfusions save lives and improve health, directly contributing to Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 'Good Health and Well-being'. For this reason, UN Namibia set up SDG banners in the lecture hall to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as to spark conversation about the colorful set of goals.

