

## UNDP visits Family of Hope Services Centre for Mandela Day

**18 July, Windhoek:** The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Namibia visited the Family of Hope Services Centre in the Havana Informal Settlement, Windhoek on Nelson Mandela International Day. The Centre supports 450 orphans and vulnerable children, providing meals, counseling, medical care and education.

The Centre has been operational for almost fifteen years. Foibe Silvanus, the Project Manager of the Centre gave UNDP Namibia staff members a tour of the premises, which includes a playground, a toy-room, a library as well as a computer room for children to do research and enhance their computer skills. One of Family of Hope Services Centre's main focus areas is to provide children with the necessary life skills needed to succeed in the world. The Centre's Remedial School, specifically helps adolescents who have never attended school to reach a level where they can enter into the formal school system and be prepared for future employment.

During the Mandela Day celebrations at the centre, each UNDP staff member was assigned to a child or a group of children to assist with mathematics and english homework for 67 minutes. 67 is a significant number, as it is the amount of years that Nelson Mandela devoted to the service of humanity.

The Head of UNDP Programmes, Martha Naanda closed off the visit by thanking the Centre for hosting UNDP and explained how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) work towards making the world a better place. Further, she encouraged the children to make the SDGs their own and live out their lives like Nelson Mandela. "I would like to see all of you contribute to the SDGs and work hard to make Namibia a better place," she stated.

The Centre relies on the support of donors and volunteers for expertise as well as supplies, including food donations, which allows the Centre's weekday feeding scheme to provide meals for 260 children. A garden, which is cared for by volunteers and the children, also ensures that the meals include healthy and nutritious food. Family of Hope Services Centre also has several income generating projects to cover the costs of running the Centre, including a bicycle workshop, where old bicycles are repaired and sold.

