



UNESCO
Representative
to Namibia
Dr. Jean Pierre
Ilboudo handing
over t-shirts to
Dagbreek School's
Victoria Kashima
for the Windows
of Hope Club.
UNESCO

Windows of Hope to aid in HIV prevention among adolescents

8 August, Windhoek: An Inauguration Ceremony of the Windows of Hope Club Programme was held at the Dagbreek School on 8 August 2018. The school, which is for learners who are intellectually impaired, is offering a new and unique after-school programme aimed at engaging and educating adolescents about the prevention of HIV.

Targeting 10 to 14-year-olds, the programme increases self-esteem and allows adolescents to acquire knowledge and skills to protect themselves against HIV. It also helps learners develop compassion for those living with the disease as well as empowers children to deal with HIV/AIDS in their personal lives, in school and in the wider community.

In his remarks at the event, Dr. Jean-Pierre Ilboudo, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Representative to Namibia, said that the majority of adolescents lack the knowledge required to make decisions responsibly, leaving them vulnerable to pressure, sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancies.

He commended the management of Dagbreek School for introducing such an important program, emphasising that school-based health clubs can play a vital role in strengthening the delivery of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) to young people as an extra-curricular activity. Dr. Ilboudo pointed out how clubs can facilitate peer learning and serve as a platform for the youth to share experiences.

"We know that there are some things that young people will not share with their teachers or parents; but through the clubs (peer to peer), they are able to share and get information they need", he said.

The Window of Hope Club Programme will use games, stories, songs, information sharing, partner and group work, role-playing, artwork and visualisation exercises to share valuable information with adolescents. The programme focuses on developing communication, interpersonal relationships, decision-making, critical thinking, coping and self-management skills. It will also focus on developing self-awareness and self-confidence among adolescents, which is a prerequisite for engaging in health-seeking behaviour, as well as for coping and developing compassion in an environment deeply disrupted by the pandemic.

Initiatives such as Windows of Hope allow for the achievement of Pillar 3 of the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) 2014-2018 on Health. Particularly, programmes such as this support outcome 6, which aims to by 2018, have accountable and well-coordinated multi-sectorial mechanisms to reduce the burden of priority diseases and conditions, address the social, economic and environmental determinants of health and improve health outcomes.