

#WorldChildrensDay - #KidsTakeOver

On 20 November UNICEF Namibia joined in the global World Children's Day commemoration, under the theme "#KidsTakeOver". The day aimed to empower and give children the chance to speak directly to adults and raise their voices in solidarity with the worlds most disadvantaged and hardest to reach children.

As part of Namibia's commemoration, UNICEF and the City of Swakopmund engaged with about 40 girls and boys aged 12-18years, who were drawn from various local schools in Swakopmund. Using various Social Media platforms, the children voiced their opinions on issues such as teenage pregnancy, the plight of the San Children, road safety for children, the disadvantage of having bars located in residential areas etc.



Swakopmund students work on taking over social media for the #Kidstakeover event, Swakopmund Municipality Council Chambers

Highlighting the gains made by Namibia, the UNICEF Representative said that "Namibia has made many strides in addressing the rights of children, and we applaud the Government for that. At the same time we recognised the challenges that still remain; the obstacles that are making many children especially from vulnerable households to remain behind, to be invisible, not have their rights realised and become equal citizens in their country of birth. We need to address these."

To wrap up the day, the 40 children delivered a Namibian World Children's Day Declaration, which was received by Her Worship Mayor Paulina Nashilundo and the UNICEF Representative, Rachel Odede, at the Mayor's office. The Declaration articulated the children's view on the changes they seek and which symbolizes their right to participate in decision making and the right to be heard.

Receiving the Declaration the Mayor of Swakopmund Paulina Ndahafa Nashilundo said "The children gathered here today are a generation of Namibian children born protected by the Convention on the Rights of a child. It is thus our duty to implement this convention by including them and listening to what they say."

In Windhoek, ten children participated and presented on various radio and TV programmes highlighting the importance of the day and what the day meant for Namibia. Children also wrote articles highlighting the rights that they feel are still not met in the country. The articles were published by the Namibian, New Era and the Sun newspapers.