

UNAM Cares' Oxygen Namibia Disaster Risk Reduction Intervention

Authors: 1. Dr Rachel Freeman Head: Corporate Social Responsibility & Senior Lecturer in Social Work, 2. Professor Judith Hall Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences and Veterinary Medicines, 3. Mr. Nigel Mkwaira Creative Design Specialist, Corporate Engagement and International Relations, 4. Professor Kenneth Matengu, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia

INTRODUCTION

The University of Namibia through the Cardiff University's Phoenix Project received funding from the Welsh and Africa Grant valued at N\$20, 000, 000.00 for the establishment of two major Medical Oxygen Production Plants and two 4.2 tons of Oxygen Tanks in the north-eastern parts of Namibia. The two plants and two tanks were set up in response to disaster risk reduction in strengthening Namibia's health care system across and otherwise geographically large country to improve the provision of quality and adequate care to patients in both urban and rural areas. This poster exhibits the University of Namibia's Oxygen Disaster Risk Reduction Intervention in providing oxygen for both immediate national COVID-19 lifesaving needs, and sustainable long-term use.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Namibia, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-2021 experienced a high number of deaths due to COVID-19. The Phoenix Project of Cardiff University and UNAM's Corporate Social Responsibility Programme, (UNAM Cares) took up the yoke to support the MoHSS to fight the critical shortage of medical oxygen in the country by soliciting international aid from the Welsh Government to strengthen the country healthcare response.

AIM

To dramatically and rapidly increase the availability of medical oxygen supply across Namibia (using a sustainable implementation model), so that patients identified as needing oxygen support in COVID-19 infection receive it.

OBJECTIVES

To institute and realise a national and devolved, oxygen supply system, sufficient to respond to the oxygen needs that COVID-19 has imposed on Namibia during the 3rd wave of the pandemic. This must be readily accessible to patients requiring oxygen support for COVID-19 disease and other related diseases.

METHODOLOGY

Call for bidders. Recruit suppliers for medical oxygen provision. Appoint suppliers. Monitor & evaluate setting up of Tanks and Plants. Handover Tanks and Plants to MoHSS in the strengthening of the healthcare system to be disaster ready.



Ms. Annelize Tsuses, Executive Secretary in the Office of Vice-Chancellor, Dr Rachel Freeman, Head UNAM Cares,



Professor Judith Hall with UNAM Cares' Training Team - Courtesy Visit to Omaheke Governor: Hon. Pijoo Nganate and Regional Health Director: Mr. Jeremia Shikulo (Gobabis)



Hon. Minister: Dr Kalumbi Shangula MoHSS, Professor Dr. Kenneth Matengu, Vice-Chancellor UNAM, Hon. Governor Pijoo Nganate, Omaheke Region, HE, Mayor Elvire Theron in Gobabis



Dr Rachel Freeman @ Nkurenkuru Oxygen Production Plant 25 August 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS

Two 4.2 Tons of Oxygen Tanks installed and handed over to the MoHSS in the Otjozondjupa region (Grootfontein hospital), in the Omaheke region (Gobabis hospital). Two Oxygen Production Plants were installed and handed over to MoHSS in the Zambezi region at the Katima Mulilo hospital and in the Kavango-West region (Nkurenkuru COVID-19 Isolation Unit). Strengthened medical oxygen supply in country. The oxygen plants and tanks are a result of an ambitious international collaboration between the Phoenix Project of Cardiff University, led by Professor Judith Hall and the University of Namibia's Corporate Social Responsibility Project; UNAM Cares founded by Professor Kenneth Matengu, which were duly executed in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS) and coordinated by Dr Rachel Freeman: Head UNAM Cares.

CONCLUSION

The poster concludes that the #OxygenNamibia project made an important contribution to disaster risk reduction during the COVID-19 pandemic through the international collaboration between Africa, in particularly, Namibia and Wales' as a global socially responsible country. The project aligns at several points with the UN SDGs, which Wales and Namibia are required to do.



Specifically, SDG 3 in ending epidemics of communicable diseases, including the impact of COVID-19. It contributed to universal health coverage and vaccination. The oxygen infrastructure network plan offered nationally inclusive healthcare services. There is also a clear alignment to SDG 9 building resilient infrastructure through the development of quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all. Provision of sustainable oxygen supply for the country, sufficient for its needs has been a well-identified and addressed.

Institution: University of Namibia Email Address Corresponding Author: rfreeman@unam.na

