

# **Ombetja Yehinga Organisation**

## **Annual Report 2018**

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Dr Scholastika lipinge (Chairperson) (University of Namibia (UNAM))  
Ms Sandy Rudd (Vice-chairperson) (College of the Arts Theatre School)  
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Mr Lendl Isaaks (media)  
Dr Philippe Talavera (ex officio)

**OYO staff 2018**

Philippe Talavera: Director  
Cecilia Petrus: General Manager  
Karolina Katumbo: Logistics Manager  
Freddie Scholtz (till April)/ Michaela Kanzler (May to November), Veronika Eichhoff (December): Finance Manager  
Joshua Homateni: Production Manager  
Angela Thomas (till August): Resource Mobilisation Manager  
Ivan 'Fly' Mueze (till August): Youth Development Officer  
Nyandee Mbarandongo: Youth Development Officer  
Dancers: El Junita 'Butterfly' Philander, Herman 'Kassi' Hausiku, Teemus 'Joe' Nakapela, Sophie Janser, Mary Jane Andreas and Osysin Puteho (till October)

## Acronyms and initialisms

CS	Combined School
GBV	Gender-based violence
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Society for International Cooperation)
HS	High School
JSS	Junior Secondary School
KAYEC	Katutura Youth Enterprise Centre
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
MHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services
MoE	Ministry of Education
MPYC	Multi Purpose Youth Centre
NAMCOL	Namibian College of Open Learning
NANASO	Namibia Network of AIDS Service Organisations
NAPPA	Namibia Planned Parenthood Association
ODT	OYO dance troupe
OSISA	Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa
OYO	Ombetja Yehinga Organisation
PMTCT	Prevention Mother to Child Transmission
RACE	Regional HIV/AIDS Committee in Education
RACOC	Regional HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SBCC	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
SS	Secondary School
SSOAN	San Support Organisations' Association of Namibia
UK	United Kingdom
WAD	World AIDS Day
YG	Youth Group

## **1 Message from the OYO Director**

Last year, 2018, has probably been the most difficult in the life of OYO. The year started with the organisation learning that it has lost its Global Fund grant that over the past 12 years represented from 40 to 80 per cent of its annual budget. It was a major cut and while OYO has been anticipating the drastic reduction in funds, the belief that the trust had shut its doors overshadowed many other applications for funding. That aside, OYO is proud to have maintained operations and continue delivering the world-class social development that it is known for.

Managing a smaller budget had OYO focus on certain operations as not all projects could continue. At a time, particularly between July 2016 to December 2017, the organisation was under a lot of pressure to reach targets, which also meant that not enough time could be allocated to complete each activity. Despite that, operations have continued and more focus was spent on certain projects, while more time could be spent on engaging with beneficiaries to ensure that the organisation was indeed making a difference.

Surviving the post-Global Fund situation, as internal staff knew it as, would not have been possible without support from faithful partners such as the Valentine Trust, the Elma Foundation, Stichting Horizon, the Embassy of Finland, the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) the Canada Fund for Local Initiative (CFLI) and UNAIDS. OYO also renewed contact with UNICEF, UNESCO and the Network for Social Change. We are thankful to all partners who supported our work and helped us reach objectives.

The greatest achievement of 2018, undeniably, was the nomination of our DVD, *Salute*, as Best Movie: Southern Africa at the Africa Magic Viewers Choice Award. OYO did not win the award but the nomination was the first time for a Namibian film at these prestigious awards. Over 3,000 films were submitted and barely 150 made it to the nomination.

As in the previous years, another greatest achievement was the Dance Troupe, which was the first and to this date is the only in Namibia that offers dancers full-time employment. While we reached much less people throughout 2018, three dancers could premiere 'Trapped' in the Netherlands in September. An ambitious project was also negotiated with the Prince Claus Fund that will culminate with a performance at National Theatre of Namibia in March 2019.

Another OYO DVD 'Kukuri' also premiered in 2018. This is a community project, in collaboration with the Omega and Chetto communities of the Kavango East and Zambezi regions. We renewed our work with young people, reaching more youth groups and we continued our work in correctional facilities.

None of the milestones this year would have been possible without the dedication of our staff. They have been tested in many ways – particularly as we had to rethink the way we manage our budgets, because as some staff resigned and their position was frozen, the remaining ones had to absorb the extra workload. Without our staff dedication and hard work, the post-global fund transition would not have been possible. Our General Manager and my right-hand, Cecilia Petrus, oversaw a lot of the day-to-day work. Production Manager, Josua Homateni worked tirelessly to manage all tours and productions across the country. Project Coordinator: Youth Development, Ivan 'Fly' Mueze and Production Assistant, Nyandee Mbarandongo continued to inspire youth groups across Namibia and took over the challenge to implement the 'In and Out' project in correctional facilities.

Karolina Katumbo supported Cecilia and managed the logistics of all our projects with enthusiasm. Our dancers again reached numerous communities from all over Namibia. As a director, I am blessed to work with such wonderful people and have enjoyed every moment with them.

Finally, I would like to thank our Board of Trustees, Scholastika Lipinge (chairperson), Sandy Rudd (vice-chairperson), Kathleen Newton (finance), Peter Watson (legal), Carolin Guriras (marketing), Theopolina Kueyo (HIV and key populations) and Lendl Izaaks (media). They too felt the pressure resulting from the loss of the global fund grant. OYO is privileged to have a board that is engaged, passionate and supportive.

Donors and partners keep talking about sustainability, which does raise many questions. How can an organisation that does not have the goal of generating a profit sustain itself without becoming a business, while funding for social development projects are decreasing on a global scale? Should OYO become a production company of dance, theatre and DVD? If the answer is yes, how can OYO become a business without losing its focus of social development through empowerment?

The organisation has certainly though 2018 learnt that operations cannot continue as per usual and time must be invested in evolving itself in this new economic environment. Throughout this process of evolution, OYO is aware of the commitment required for the organisation to continue making a difference in the lives of many young people.

Philippe Talavera (PhD)  
Director: Ombetja Yehinga Organisation

## **2 Background information**

OYO is a Namibian Welfare Organisation (WO 199) established in December 2002, and officially launched in March 2003. It registered as a trust with the High Court of Namibia in 2009.

The organisation aims at using the arts - both visual and performing – to create awareness and mitigate the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other social problems such as domestic violence, rape, and the abuse of alcohol and other drugs amongst the youth of Namibia.

OYO's vision is to develop a society in which there is broad access to information and the arts. By developing their creative skills, young people empower themselves to make informed choices, and thus become more prosperous, increase their life expectancy, and improve the quality of their lives.

The organisation's values are:

- ✓ to be a listening and responsive organisation;
- ✓ to lead by example, striving for the highest standards;
- ✓ to be inclusive, regardless of race, gender, religion, ability, HIV status or sexual orientation;
- ✓ to retain our freedom to give accurate and relevant information, and to do so to the best of our ability;
- ✓ to behave in an ethical manner and to fight corruption and dishonesty;
- ✓ to support and encourage all people to assert their right to a voice;
- ✓ to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn;

- ✓ to promote creativity and innovation;
- ✓ to promote human rights for all;
- ✓ to promote excellence and pride in success; and
- ✓ to be apolitical, secular and non-judgmental.

*OYO's application of a highly participatory ... and learner-centred pedagogy represents a model of excellence and best practice.*

***Hon. Nangola Mbumba, Minister of Education, September 2009***

### **3 History of the Ombetja Yehinga Organisation**

The origins of OYO lie in the Kunene Regional Council. In 2000, teachers requested support for their attempts effectively and efficiently to integrate HIV/AIDS-related information into their school curriculum. In January 2001, the council officially launched a programme called Ombetja Yehinga, as part of the activities of the Regional HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee (RACOC), Kunene Region. The project was extended for one more year in 2002. By the end of 2002, the programme had been so successful that requests were received to expand it to the Erongo and Khomas regions. With this end in mind, the Ombetja Yehinga programme registered with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS) as an NGO, and focused on the development of a proper work plan and philosophy, characterised by the slogan: Using the arts with young people to create social awareness. With the establishment of a head office in Windhoek and two regional offices (in Erongo Region and Kunene Region), 2003 was an important milestone in the life of OYO.

Between 2003 and 2017, OYO was responsible for the following productions, publications and events:

- ✓ the magazine 'OYO, young, latest and cool' – its production stopped temporarily in March 2014 but resumed end 2015
- ✓ regional tours and annual youth festivals with youth groups
- ✓ the plays and DVD series 'The hostel monologues' (2006), 'Five minutes of pleasure' (2007), 'We were young' (2009), and 'Sex and chocolate' and 'Teddy bear love' (2010)
- ✓ the dance shows 'The Namibian Odysseus' (2008), 'Fallen masks' and 'Modern love' (2009), followed by the creation of the OYO dance troupe (ODT), which has toured nationally and internationally (in South Africa, the UK and Germany); the productions 'Should I know?' (2010), 'Don't leave me' (2011), 'Magda' (2012), 'I'm not alone' (in collaboration with Zimbabwean musician Leonard Zakata – 2010), 'Stigma' (2012), 'The dark Medea' (2013), 'He loved me' (2013), 'Ever since Helen' (2014), 'In and out' (2014), 'Teacher' (2015), 'Ania' (2015), 'Prison grove' (2015), 'Betrayed' (2016), 'Maria' (2016), 'the phantom of Namibia' (2016), 'Thiasus' (2017), 'to take or not to take' (2017) and 'Always on my mind' (2017)
- ✓ the DVDs 'A crack in the wall' (2008), 'One night' (2011), 'Now that I can talk about it' (2013), 'Panado girl' (2014), 'pap and milk' (2016) and 'Salute' (2017) and the mini-series 'My best interest' Episode 1: 'Left alone', Episode 2: 'Stinky boy' (2012), Episode 3: 'Why can't I be like everybody else?' (2013), Episode 4: 'Crippled' (2014)
- ✓ the fashion theatre extravaganzas 'The fashion disease' (2003), 'Isolation' (2003), and 'Eros and Thanatos' (2005)
- ✓ the books 'Challenging the Namibian perception of sexuality' (2002), 'The hyena's disease' (with children from Kunene Region – 2003), and 'Our dreams, our hope' (with Braunfels Agriculture High School (HS) – 2004)
- ✓ the CDs 'Maturwisaehinga' (with the Putuavanga AIDS Awareness Club – 2003) and 'Vital' (with Namibian artists – 2004)

- ✓ the photographic projects 'The caring Namibian man' (2005), 'Still life' (2007), and 'There's no such thing' (2010)
- ✓ the condom exhibition 'Rubber soul' (2006).

OYO was also involved in various international youth exchange initiatives, culminating in 2008 in a performance at the renowned Peacock Theatre in London and in 2014 by the selection of the OYO dance troupe to the Commonwealth Youth Dance Festival (only youth dance troupe from Africa to have been selected to the festival). As a result, the OYO Dance Troupe embarked on a UK tour in July 2014, performing in Leeds (Yorkshire Dance), Edinburgh (Dance Base), Glasgow (Commonwealth Youth Dance Festival –Tramway Theatre) and London (Unicorn).

Awards and recognition include:

- ✓ the 2009 AfriComNet Chairman's Award to OYO's founder and Director for 'his outstanding contribution in HIV and AIDS prevention and impact mitigation through communication'
- ✓ the Special Youth Prize at the Lola Screen Festival, 2011, for OYO's DVDs 'Make a move' (2010), 'Sex and chocolate' (2011), and 'Teddy bear love' (2011)
- ✓ the award for Second-Best Youth Film at the Lola Screen Festival 2010, for OYO's DVD 'We were young' (produced in late 2009 and released early in 2010)
- ✓ the award for Best Male Actor in a Film (Dawie Engelbrecht, 'Now that I can talk about it') and Best Female Actor in a Film (Anna Louw, 'Stinky Boy') at the 2014 Namibian Theatre and Film Awards.

## **4 Executive summary**

The year 2018 featured one of OYO's biggest projects, the 'San Matter phase II', which aims at addressing culturally motivated bullying by encouraging school-attending San children in the Omaheke and Ohangwena regions to remain in school. Numerous activities were executed at school level: tour of the dance troupe, training and tour of two youth groups, exchange visits between schools to learn from one another and the School-San Friendly competition). A component of this project worth noting is the management of San girls' camps that through various activities engaged with San girls to find solutions to problems they may face.

OYO also continued one of its most challenging projects, 'In and Out', in correctional facilities. The aim of the project is to encourage HIV testing amongst inmates every three months so that information of incidence and prevalence of HIV in correctional facilities is gathered. Two one-week-long workshops were organised in each of the twelve facilities participating in the project. The DVD 'Salute' was presented during a screening to trigger discussion. An opinion piece was created based on comments from audience members. The DVD was further presented at AIDS 2018 in Amsterdam and was nominated as Best movie Southern Africa at the AMVCA Awards.

OYO also premiered and publicly screened 'Kukuri', a DVD produced with community members from the Kavango East and Zambesi regions. It also managed a small 'say no to child marriage project' in the area where the film was shot.

OYO worked again this year in some of Windhoek's informal settlements and reached over 2 000 residents through a comprehensive programme for the youth of six settlements. Around the World AIDS Day, OYO also managed a tour in the Kunene Region to address the issue of treatment adherence and investigate the possibility to start or support teen

clubs that aim to support young people living with HIV. OYO also continued with its 'Growing strong in the Karas Region' project and worked with young people at ten schools in Keetmanshop, Koes and Bethanie.

As expected, projects didn't reach as many people as in 2017 (over 150 000 people) but full attention could be given to each initiative and produce a better quality. Three dancers could also attend a one-week residency in the Netherlands, on invitation by the Prince Claus Fund, and premiere 'Trapped' in Rotterdam.

Table 1. Achievements of OYO dance troupe

	Total
DT San shows	12,043
DT tour jails	2,504
DT child marriage	5,661
DT shows Windhoek WAD	2,061
DT shows Kunene WAD	3,731
DT interns show	1,363
DT UHC day shows	400
Other shows	910
TOTAL	28,673

In 2017, OYO was so busy with the global fund no cost extension that it had to put the work it does with out-of-school unemployed young people on the side; it reached only 8 819 people with tours from the youth group. This year however, OYO could focus again on working with the youth and reached 21,537 people.

Table 2. Achievements tour of the youth groups

Youth Group	# people reached
Ohangwena San YG	4,968
Drimiopsis San YG	5,387
Koes YG	3,505
Bethanie YG	2,904
Dream Team	2,595
Windhoek YG	2,178
TOTAL	21,537



Finally, OYO's Director, Philippe Talavera, was appointed as chair of the Namibian Child Right Network (NCRN) and OYO formally registered to become a member of the Girls Not Brides international network.

## **5 About the tools used by OYO**

### **5.1. About the OYO Magazine**

The 'OYO, young, latest and cool' magazine is the oldest OYO project. The first issue was produced in 2002. It started as a 4-page newsletter and is now a 73-page glossy magazine.

Each issue addresses a different topic related to HIV/AIDS or sexual health. Magazine assistants – also called freelance facilitators - arrange meetings with schools to deal with the selected topic; they organise debates, create plays or hold discussion sessions, as appropriate. They help learners gain a thorough understanding of the topic and encourage them to express their views or concerns by making individual contributions in the form of essays, poems, stories or drawings.

Contributions are evaluated on the basis of their originality and content; the chosen work, together with expert opinions and other pertinent inputs, is then published. The published magazines are distributed free of charge to schools.

The model of the magazine has evolved over time. Nowadays, each magazine is divided into five chapters. Freelance facilitators are trained to facilitate the magazine. They are then allocated schools and organise five sessions: one per chapter. Learners who attend all five sessions then receive a certificate for attendance. This model is proving successful.

Unfortunately, not one new issue was produced in 2018 but that thanks to funding from UNESCO, the issue on teenage pregnancy could be reprinted. UNESCO and CFLI also supported the reprint of the issue on the Child Care and Protection Act. Jan Haas and Henk Lubberdink of the Horizon Board also at the end of the year announced a donation towards the reprint of the issue on 'HIV and young people'.

### **5.2. About the OYO Dance Troupe**

The OYO Dance Troupe is a branch of the Ombetja Yehinga Organisation Trust (OYO). Created in 2008, it followed on from the success of OYO's production 'The Namibian Odysseus'.

The dance troupe creates social awareness in young people utilising contemporary dance – in particular, physical theatre. The troupe creates performances for schools to address important social issues such as HIV/AIDS (Should I know?, Choices, To take or not to Take and What is love?), stigma and discrimination (Bin boy and Stigma), teenage pregnancy (Teacher, Ania, The Dark Medea), 'corrective' rape (Magda) and gender-based violence (Betrayed, He loved me and The Moirai). Each performance in schools is followed by a discussion with learners to ensure that the message is clear. Referral systems are discussed for those who need help.

The Dance Troupe is often commissioned to perform for high-ranking officials and advocate for specific issues. It has performed four times at the Namibian Parliament. It also performed at the Pan African Parliament in South Africa. The Troupe performed in London in 2009 at the Peacock Theatre as part of the 'ctrl.alt.shift' project and gained international recognition in 2014 when it was invited to perform at the Commonwealth Youth Dance

Festival in Glasgow, Scotland, in July 2014. It also performed at the Maitisong Festival 2016 (Gaborone, Botswana).

The dance branch of the organisation hosts international exchanges through its summer internship programme, giving a chance to young dancers from Europe and the United States to work with them for five weeks. All dancers learn from one another and share experiences while creating new and innovative pieces.

The following pieces were created in 2018: 'kitchen boy' on HIV transmission in correctional facilities; 'I have a choice' on child marriage and 'Oxossi's betrayed' on poaching. Three dancers also attended a weeklong residency in the Netherlands where they premiered 'Trapped'.

### **5.3. About the OYO DVDs**

Since 2006, OYO has produced various educational DVDs and developed a unique approach to inviting young people (18 to 23-year-old) and having them engage in writing workshops. Through sharing their own experience, workshop-participants develop stories that are relevant to the youth and can be developed into scripts by the OYO team; all films involve either children or young people.

Once the script is ready, auditions at schools or within a community of out-of-school youth are held before four-to six-week-long workshops to train them as actors. A professional crew then captures the stories developed.

Once the DVDs are produced and ready for viewing, a tour of schools in Namibia for screenings commences. Every screening is followed by a discussion with a trained youth facilitator, who first ensures that the audience has understood the main issues explored in the DVD, and encourages learners to talk about them. OYO's DVDs to date include 'Salute' on HIV transmission in correctional facilities, 'Panado Girl' on teenagers living with HIV; 'Now that I can talk about it' on gender-based violence; 'Pap and Milk' on intergenerational sex; and the mini-series 'My best interest' on children's rights. This year featured the premier of 'Kukuri' on child marriage, while 'Salute' received international recognition being featured at AIDS 2018 in Amsterdam (Netherlands) and nominated as Best Film: Southern Africa at the AMVCA Awards (Nigeria).

### **5.4. About the OYO Youth Groups**

OYO has since 2006 been working with unemployed out-of-school youth groups and trained them in theatre, dancing and singing. Training is always done under a specific theme relevant to the youth of Namibia, such as HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence and teenage pregnancy. All training in the said disciplines include information and awareness on the theme

Once trained, usually over a period of five weeks, the youth are ready to present their performances. OYO then organises regional tours for them to perform in schools. The idea is not only to share the fruit of their work but also to promote their self-esteem. They can be seen as role models, which can also help them understand their worthiness and succeed in life. For many young people, the youth groups are a platform for them to identify and address personal issues before moving on and prospering in life. Activities in training and performing encourage participants to return to education or find a job. The certificate of participation awarded at the end of a project has assisted participants in securing a job.

In 2018 OYO supported youth groups in:

- ✓ the Ohangwena Region: the Ohangwena San youth group (with support from the Embassy of Finland)
- ✓ the Omaheke Region: Drimiopsis San youth group (with support from the Embassy of Finland)
- ✓ the Karas Region: Koes youth group, Bethanie youth group and Keetmanshop youth group (with support from Horizon Trust and Elma Philanthropies)
- ✓ the Khomas Region: Windhoek youth group (with support from UNAIDS)

Past groups that benefited from OYO's work include those in Rundu, Grootfontein, Gobabis, Walvis Bay, Henties Bay, Uis, Keetmanshop, Eenhana, Oukongo, Ondobe and Outapi.

### **5.5. The package used**

OYO believes that children and teenagers need to be reached more than once - to reinforce messages- using exciting mediums - to stimulate their attention - with simple, yet strong messages - to impact on their attitudes and behaviours. Over the years, OYO has developed a strategy using the arts and has developed packages. Once a theme is selected, all activities are focused on this specific theme during the months of implementation. Five sub-topics are then identified and they form the core of the package.

Tools are then created – usually three per package, among the following medium. The rationale for each tool is as follows:

- ✓ The Dance Troupe show allows OYO to reach an audience as large as a school body. It's a non-verbal form of community that is therefore accessible to all. Each piece is followed by a discussion that is moderated by a trained facilitator. The aim is to provide the basic information to as many learners as possible.
- ✓ The tour of the Youth group also allows OYO to reach an audience as large as a school body. It's a verbal form of community. Since the groups are from the local community, they can speak the local language and therefore interact with audiences in a language they can understand. Each piece is followed by a discussion that is moderated by a trained facilitator. The aim is to provide the basic information to as many learners as possible.
- ✓ The OYO magazine targets a group of 30 to 50 learners who are given a copy of the magazine and an hour per chapter to understand the topic. They are required to report to a facilitator after every one of the five hours. This is to ensure that a core group of learners have in-depth knowledge and had undertaken a series of activities that promote a change in their attitude and behaviour. It is expected they will later share their copy of the magazine with other learners.
- ✓ The DVD allows OYO to carry out another session of information dissemination, specifically with learners staying in hostels, as they are more vulnerable due to the absence of parental guidance.

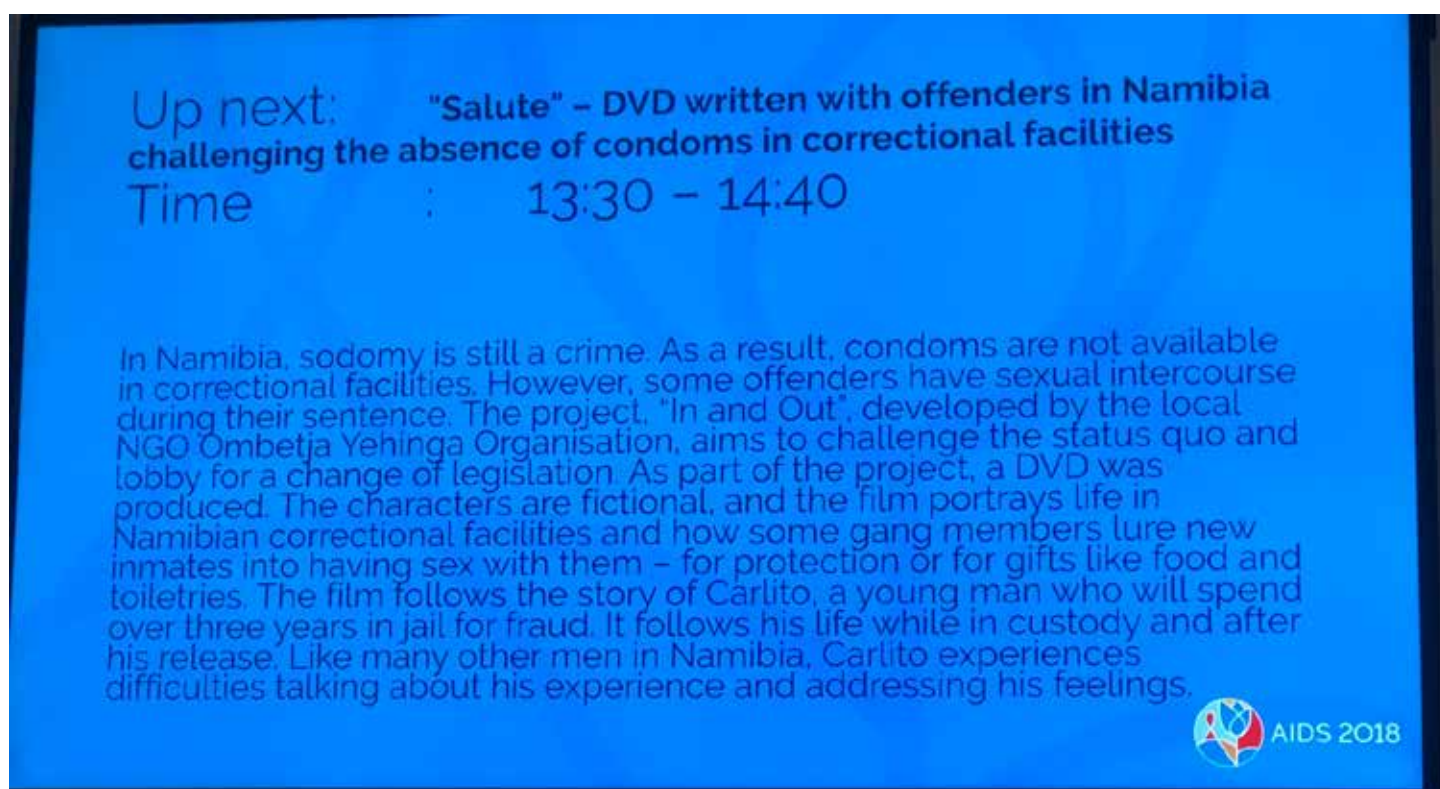
While the tools may vary depending on the projects, one principle remains: visiting the same school more than once to reinforce messages effectively.

## 6. Highlights – ‘Salute’ attracts international attention

### 6.1. ‘Salute’ in Amsterdam at AIDS2018

The DVD ‘Salute’ was selected for the AIDS2018 conference in Amsterdam. This was a great opportunity for OYO to share its work and for stakeholders to acknowledge the issue. OYO’s Director, Dr Talavera could attend the conference and present the DVD. A large delegation from Namibia was in Amsterdam. About 40 people - including 11 from Namibia, attended the screening. Among others were the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and various representatives from the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) and the University of Namibia (UNAM).

Following the presentation in Amsterdam, it was agreed that the DVD should be presented to top management at the MoHSS and law students at UNAM. While no dates have been finalised yet, engaging with the two government agencies would be interesting avenues to trigger discussion.



(Write up for ‘Salute’ at the AIDS 2018 conference in Amsterdam)

During the conference, copies of the DVD was distributed to H.E the First Lady of the Republic of Namibia, Madam Monica Geingos and the then minister for Health and Social Services, Hon. Bernard Haufiku.

### 6.2. ‘Salute’ nominated for Best Movie Southern Africa, AMVCA 2018

The DVD ‘Salute’ received the great honour to be nominated for the Best Movie: Southern Africa category at the 6th annual Africa Magic Viewers’ Choice Awards (AMVCA). Nominated for the same category were ‘Descent’ by Awal Abdulfatai, ‘The Road to Sunrise’ by Shemu Joyah, ‘Jomako Black Democracy’ by Abraham Kabwe and ‘Nyasaland’ by Joyce Mhango Chavula. Although ‘The Road to Sunrise’ won the prize on 01<sup>st</sup> September 2018, this was an excellent opportunity for OYO and the DVD to get a lot of media coverage.



Articles appeared in all the local newspapers in Namibia and interviews were conducted on various radio stations. The issue of HIV transmission in correctional facilities was made very public thanks to the nomination. OYO also had a lot of Facebook and Instagram coverage around the award ceremony that was attended by Director Talavera and two actors, Adriano Visagie and Dawie Engelbrecht.

Given the high profile of the nomination, 'Salute' is a Namibian film that will remain on the shelves for some time and will probably qualify for the Namibian Theatre and Film Awards in 2019 and is likely to continue raising interest. The nomination and the public's response has ensured the MoHSS can't ignore the film and the issues it raises. It would also be difficult to criticise the quality of the film as it was nominated out of 3 000 entries – only 80 films surfaced as nominees.

## **7. San Matter project phase II**

This project is an extension of and builds on 'San Matter Phase I' that had the rationale of only 67 percent of San children in Namibia enrol in school, of which only 1 percent complete secondary school. Worth noting is the OSISA Group report "Rethinking Indigenous Education". Culturally-motivated bullying has been identified as one of the reasons why San children drop out of school.

During the first phase of the project, many lessons were learnt. They include:

- ✓ The fact that an intervention in schools around cultural discrimination is important. For example, Ohakafiya Combined School's feedback from the San children was heart-warming. They unanimously said that their school is much more San friendly since OYO started visiting and they are no longer bullied by learners of other ethnic groups. They said teachers have also stated treating them equal to other learners and the frequency of verbal and physical abuse cases have reduced.
- ✓ Changing the mentality of school-goers is not enough: parents need to be reached as well to make a difference. Hence, a project such as the 'San matter' cannot be a one-year intervention and needs to be a long-term commitment.
- ✓ San girls are more vulnerable than San boys as they expected to get married and have children soon after they start menstruating, which implies that keeping San girls in primary school at least is possible.
- ✓ Special intervention targeting adolescent San girls is needed.

It would be important to note that the attitude of some schools remains difficult to change and they continue resorting to corporal punishment as was witnessed by the San Friendly School competition judging team.

During an evaluation meeting held on 28 October 2016, with the Permanent Secretary of MEAC, Mrs Sanet Steenkamp, a delegation from the Finnish Embassy, representatives from other organisations working with San communities and representatives from OYO, the following was agreed upon:

- ✓ It is important to continue with the San Matter project in the same regions (Ohangwena and Omaheke) with the same schools in order to reinforce messages and ensure the change is adopted and sustainable.
- ✓ The project should work in close collaboration with other stakeholders such as FAWENA in order to have a bigger impact.

- ✓ San friendly schools should be promoted as a model and other schools should learn from them. OYO should also report cases of corporal punishment or cultural discrimination to the regional offices to ensure that measures are taken.
- ✓ A special effort should be made to work with the San girl, particularly the San adolescent girls.

Based on that information, the proposal of ‘San Matter phase II’ was prepared and approved. San Matter phase II started 01<sup>st</sup> July 2017 and was funded by the Embassy of Finland for implementation in the Omaheke and Ohangwena regions, with a smaller satellite project funded by the Canada Fund for International Development in the Otjozondjupa region.

## 7.1. San Matter in Omaheke and Ohangwena regions

During the first six months (July to December 2017) the following activities had taken place:

- ✓ The regional offices of the ministry were approached and a planning visit organised
- ✓ The two-weeks workshop with the Ohangwena San Youth Group took place
- ✓ The two-weeks workshop with the Drimiopsis Youth Group took place
- ✓ Meetings with key stakeholders took place
- ✓ Preparation of the dance troupe show and the San girls camps was done

### 7.1.1. Dance troupe show

The tour to the Ohangwena region took place between 22 and 26 January. Schools in the Ohangwena region are extremely difficult to reach – only 4x4 vehicles can access some of them. No minibus can access those areas. A convoy with three 4x4 vehicles and a trailer was therefore organized to reach the schools.

School	Number of learners		Number of San learner		Number of school staff		Community members		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Ekoka CS	158	153	12	0	8	10	5	0	346
Oshisho CS	269	113	22	17	8	4	8	8	449
Ohakafiya CS	183	167	3	4	5	2	2	0	366
Lazarus Haufiku CS	182	190	2	7	9	6	30	7	433
Hainyeko CS	109	191	57	52	8	3	2	1	423
Omukukutu CS	140	150	8	10	5	5	8	0	326
Wangushu CS	224	220	12	9	7	2	0	1	475
Oshamono CS	331	352	7	8	13	11	2	0	724
Omulunga CS	203	220	23	9	12	4	3	1	475
Ohehonge CS	369	284	7	3	19	5	2	0	689
Malangu PS	136	151	0	1	10	2	2	0	302
Oshaandi CS	195	182	4	2	14	4	7	4	412
	<b>2499</b>	<b>2373</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5420</b>

A post event evaluation found that 97% of all the children registered at schools attended the show. Also, 97% of all San children who had enrolled attended. These two figures mean attendance was excellent.



*(extract from 'Maria')*

The tour to the Omaheke region took place straight after, from 28 January to 02 February. Schools there are much easier to reach as OYO could use its minibus. Accommodation in the Omaheke region is however a problem, which meant that dancers and the crew had to reside in Gobabis. This cost time and made daily traveling lengthily.

School	Number of learners		Number of San learner		Number of school staff		Community members		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Traugott Kaudorozu PS	154	124	53	31	2	3	0	1	284
Motsomi PS	158	153	71	60	7	4	10	7	339
Chief Hosea Kutako PS	200	185	36	27	2	3	1	0	391
Dr Fischer PS	107	157	41	35	8	4	6	2	284
Morukutu PS	208	234	133	125	7	8	2	5	464
C. Ngatjizeko PS	137	124	16	9	0	2	0	0	263
Blouberg PS	140	134	65	86	6	3	4	1	288
Drimiopsis PS	320	243	271	184	20	7	15	13	618
Helena PS	135	115	49	57	7	2	5	4	268
Vergenoeg PS	156	158	62	117	4	1	19	5	343
Mphe Thuto PS	274	303	204	279	10	12	12	8	619
Johannes Dohren RC	205	175	30	20	4	11	3	3	401

HS									
	<b>2194</b>	<b>2105</b>	<b>1031</b>	<b>1030</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>6623</b>

Statistics show that 72% of all the children registered at schools attended the show and 77% of all enrolled San children had attended. This could be interpreted as a satisfactory attendance and it is worth noting that only 26% of learners at C. Ngatjizeko PS attended the event after the teacher responsible forgot to inform schools and learners. Weather should also be taken into consideration as a sports day was not possible the day before due to rain. About 63% of Dr Fischer PS learners attended the event, despite being informed on time and the school being the host – all was in order and the hall was in a satisfactory state for the group.

### **7.1.2. First San girls' camps**

This is a new component under the San Matter phase II project with the aim of offering San girls a space to convene and discuss issues with the goal of finding a solution to the problem.

#### **Ohangwena San girls' camp**

Despite the enormous potential, this activity is one of the most difficult to organise because bringing five girls from 12 different schools to one location at the same time over a weekend is not easy. Looking past the challenges, OYO must commend the Eenhana Multi-Purpose Youth Centre and the Ohangwena Regional Council for their support. The regional council availed three cars to transport some girls from the most remote areas to the main road, where the bus of the Multi-Purpose Youth Centre transported them to Eenhana. The OYO bus collected girls from schools that can be accessed without a 4x4 and all participants reached the venue on a Friday afternoon. The youth centre further provided accommodation, a cooking area and blankets (albeit the blankets were dirty and OYO staff had to wash them by hand). Of the 60 girls invited, 59 came and only one girl from Wangushu Combined School could not attend.



*(Brainstorming on ideas)*



Albeit challenging to organize, the camp was ranked as most the successful – a status earned through feedback from participants. To ensure that information obtained through exercises over the weekend was passed on to other learners, the OYO general manager visited the schools shortly after the girls' camp to know if a presentation was formulated and delivered.

### **Omaheke San girls' camp**

All schools in the Omaheke Region can be reached by sedans, which was an advantage but challenging is the distance between them. Fortunately, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture availed transport for 61 girls from 12 schools to the Ben Hur Centre that is about 50 KM from Gobabis. Morukutu Primary School selected six girls instead of five but accommodating the extra participant was not a problem. Having enough chairs was a little problem but did not hinder activities.



*(OYO's general manager, Cecilia, looking at group work)*

Compared to the previous camp, facilitators found that participants were less shy and the level of participation was higher. Some also had a better knowledge of their own culture. As with the previous camp, participants were asked to give feedback to their school upon return.

### **7.1.3. Exchange visit and preparation of the San friendly school competition**

This was also a new activity part of the second phase. The rationale behind the activity was two-fold:

- ✓ During phase I, some schools did not take ownership of the programme and did not fully participate in the competition.
- ✓ During phase I, some schools did extremely well and could be used as a role model for others.

With that in mind, it was decided to have exchange programmes for school managers and teachers to involve them more in OYO's activities and ensure they embrace the concept of San friendliness. The aim of the visit was to share experience and challenges when it comes to teaching San children, discuss the feedback from the San girls' camp and plan the forthcoming School San Friendly competition.

### **Ohangwena Region**

Due to large distances between schools, those participating in the programme were clustered in groups of three, with representatives from two of the schools meeting at the third school:

- ✓ Oshisho CS and Ekokoka CS met at Hainyeko CS on 05 March
- ✓ Wangushu CS and Omukukuto CS met at Lazarus Haufiku CS on 06 March
- ✓ Omulunga CS and Ohakafiya CS met at Oshamono CS on 07 March
- ✓ Malangu PS and Ohehonge CS met at Oshandi CS on 08 March

Cecilia Petrus, OYO's general manager, led the meeting. Mr Mbarandongo, who is in charge of the Ohangwena project and the RACE officer, attended all four meetings.



*(Last meeting at Oshandi Combined School)*

### **Omaheke Region**

A similar programme was followed up in the Omaheke region. Similarly, due to distances between the schools, those participating were clustered in groups of three, with representatives from two of the schools meeting at the third:

- ✓ Vergenoeg PS and Helena PS met at Traughott Kandorozi PS on 12 March
- ✓ Drimiopsis PS and Morukutu PS met at C. Ngatjizeko PS on 13 March
- ✓ Dr Fischer PS and Chief Hosea Kutako PS met at Motsomi PS on 14 March
- ✓ Johaness Dohrens HS and Mphe Thuto PS met at Blouberg PS on 15 March

Cecilia Petrus, OYO's general manager, also led the meeting. Mr Mueze, who is in charge of the Omaheke project, also attended. No representatives from the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture's regional office could attend.

#### **7.1.4. Workshop with San Youth groups**

The OYO dance troupe was instrumental in initiating the discussion around two important issues: the negative effect of cultural discrimination and the impact of early child marriage. It was then important to build on the discussion by involving local actors.

## **Workshops with Ohangwena San Youth Group**

This group consist of members from different San communities as per recommendation by the regional council during phase I, so that more youth could benefit and more communities be reached. In order to make the workshops possible and financially sound, the following was organised:

- ✓ OYO, through its grant from the Embassy of Finland, is in charge of training the youth and provides catering and toiletries
- ✓ The Eenhana Multi-Purpose Youth centre provides accommodation and blankets to the youth
- ✓ The Ohangwena Regional Council is in charge of transporting the youth from their settlement to the youth centre and back.
- ✓

It is therefore a good example of collaboration between agencies.

Five one-week workshops were then organised.

<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Average attendance</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
09-13 April 18	16 participants per day	The Regional Council was not well organised and participants were not present on Monday as expected and only on Tuesday. The workshop therefore started on Tuesday afternoon. Most of the members were new and it was difficult to keep them at the centre in the evening because they were more interested in visiting local bars. The week was about getting to know one another, selecting the theme to work on, get training on HIV, and work on traditional dances and songs. The group worked on Saturday to compensate Monday.
16 – 20 April 18	16 participants per day	This week was used mostly to devise the drama and dances. The NAPPA clinic visited the group to present their work and offer HIV testing to those interested. The local representative from Star for Life was also present to introduce the organisation. Networking was important for all present.
07 - 11 May 18	18 participants per day	The regional council was again disorganised, which meant participants arrived late on Monday and the workshop could only start on Tuesday. A few new faces were present, which retarded progress the first few days. The youth also helped with a cleaning campaign at the youth centre, to thank them for the support. By the end of the week, the show started taking shape.
14 – 18 May 18	17 participants per day	One of the youth left but that did not affect the group much. The week was mostly used to finish putting the story together. On Friday, a representative from the MEAC was present to see the work done and comment, which put pressure on the youth to finish as much as possible. The representative was satisfied and encouraged the youth to take the workshops seriously.
21 – 25 May	17 participants	The week was dedicated to polishing the show and work

18	per day	on character and emotion. The youth enjoyed the week as they could see results and were excited about the prospect of the tour. The office of the president approached them for support towards the Back to School campaign with a performance on 01 June after the tour. Therefore, the group also worked on a second play for that specific event. They took the initiative to create profiles on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram to advertise their work.
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### Workshops with Drimiopsis San Youth Group

This group is very different, as it comprises of members from only one community. In the past, there was issue with learners attending the workshop at the expense of their studies. Therefore, learners were only allowed to participate in this year's activities during the holidays.

Drimiopsis is unique in that most of the San people who identify as such actually speak Nama. This surfaced during the workshops and warrants more work in the community to understand why. The Omaheke Region is also predominantly and traditionally considered as Herero and Tswana, which make the Drimiopsis community one of resilience and worth studying more to understand the dynamics of their existence amongst other communities.

Five one-week workshops were organised.

Workshop	Average attendance	Achieved
01 – 05 May 18	Between 16 and 21 participants per day	A lot of new and young people joined the group, of which four school children who were on holidays, participated to assist with the new members. Time keeping was an issue – especially on the Monday when most members were late. The facilitator focused on dance and training on HIV.
07 – 11 May 18	Between 16 and 20 participants per day	This week was used mostly to devise the drama and dances. An argument between some of the girls hallway through the week hindered progress but the facilitator was present to resolve the matter. The beginning of the show started to take shape and the group was excited about the progress made.
21 - 25 May 18	Between 23 and 25 participants per day	The week was intense and the youth were committed and hard working. Some young people had joined and most of the week was spent devising the drama and dances to shape the show. The youth were punctual and training on Sexually Transmitted Infections took place.
28 May – 01 June 18	Between 21 and 24 participants per day	The week was successful because all main actors knew their lines and understudies were trained to take over for the group to be prepared. A shorter version of the drama was also created for them to execute a 10 to 15-minute long performance at events like conferences. The group also received training on sexual and reproductive health, which helped them discuss myths such as 'if a girl is on her period she must have sex' or 'if a boy has a wet dream, he

		has been bewitched'. The group was too big as only 18 could go on tour. It was then decided that the selection would happen in the last week.
04 – 08 June 18	Between 18 and 21 participants per day	The last week went well and the youth self-selected members to go on tour. The show was tested twice (at local school and local community) and was well received by the audience. In the school in particular, learners didn't want the show to end and the Life Skills teacher confirmed the message was clear. The group also received training on tuberculosis and other opportunistic infections. By the end of the week, the group was ready for its tour.

### 7.1.5. Youth group tours

Once ready, each one of the groups was invited to tour the same school the dance troupe had reached, to reinforce the message.

#### Tour of the Ohangwena San Youth group

The group went on tour from 27 May to 01 June. They visited the same schools as the dance troupe did.

School	Learners		Of which San learners		Adults		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Ekoka CS	160	132	8	3	10	5	307
Oshisho CS	196	192	22	13	15	6	409
Hainyeko CS	155	181	56	48	13	11	360
Omukukutu CS	152	153	8	5	11	11	327
Wangushu CS	220	206	12	5	18	5	449
Lazarus Haufiku CS	183	187	2	8	13	10	393
Ohehonge CS	380	262	7	1	25	8	675
Malangu PS	154	143	0	2	9	2	308
Oshandi CS	157	132	6	3	10	3	302
Oshamono CS	300	310	5	8	13	14	637
Omulungu CS	200	210	19	15	17	4	431
Ohakafiya CS	171	172	12	4	14	13	370
	<b>2428</b>	<b>2280</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>4968</b>

A total of 4,968 people saw the performance of the youth group, of which 272 were San children (5.5%). Of note is the fact that in some schools, parents were invited to attend the performance. Therefore the number of adults indicated in the table represents both the number of school staff and community members present.





*(the dynamic group performing in one of the schools)*

Counselling: OYO's youth development officer is also a trained counsellor and on this tour, he provided counseling on the spot. He attended to 13 cases (6 girls and 7 boys), of which he followed up by phone (3) and referred two for further support. Three cases of bullying at school were reported, as well as two cases of violence at home and two cases of teenage pregnancy.

#### **Tour of the Drimiopsis San Youth Group**

The group went on tour from 10 to 15 June. They also visited the same schools as the dance troupe did.

School	Learners		Of which San learners		Adults		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Traugott Kandorozi PS	145	125	53	40	4	1	275
Motsomi PS	254	302	88	103	9	13	578
Chief Hosea Kutako PS	237	215	68	41	11	17	480
Dr Fischer PS	289	254	69	75	9	4	556
Morukutu PS	207	207	105	116	20	10	444
C. Ngatjizeko PS	330	240	42	35	9	10	589
Blouberg PS	153	164	53	47	9	3	329
Drimiopsis PS	200	290	120	190	22	18	530
Helena PS	120	128	64	61	9	29	286
Vergenoeg PS	172	168	140	150	40	17	397
Mphe Thuto PS	263	284	218	172	19	23	589
Johannes Dohren HS	167	163	31	26	4	0	334
	<b>2537</b>	<b>2540</b>	<b>1051</b>	<b>1056</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>5387</b>

A total of 5,387 people saw the performance of the youth group, of which 2,107 were San children (41.5%). Of note is the fact that in some schools, parents were invited to attend the performance and therefore the number of adults indicated in the table represents both the number of school staff and community members present.



*(Facilitation of the show to school learners)*

Counselling: OYO had contracted a counsellor, Shaleen Strauss, for the tour and she attended to 27 cases (16 girls and 11 boys), of which she followed 11 by phone. At Chief Hosea Kutako PS, the Life Skills teacher was particularly eager to receive OYO, as he knew the organisation always brings a counselor with. One of his female learners had attempted suicide the night before and he referred her to the counselor, who could attend to the case. At Helena Primary School, many teachers and learners wanted to see the counsellor, which meant the team had to spend an extra two hours at the school to make it possible.

At C. Ngatijzeko Primary School, two learners saw the counselor because one teacher calls them names and uses corporal punishment by hitting learners with papers and slapping them in the face. They had reported the case to other teachers who then confronted the accused, who then made the abuse worse. The learners were then afraid to report to the Life Skills teacher, probably in fear of the situation worsening. Actions need to be taken on such matters and OYO's general manager is following up on the issue with the regional deputy director.

#### **7.1.6. Second San girls' camps**

This is a new activity under the San Matter phase II project and the propose is to offer a platform for San girls to discuss issues pertaining to them and work towards finding solutions. The second girl's camp was held to reinforce the message of collectively solving problems by assisting one another and encourage San girls to commit to their education.

##### **Ohangwena San girls camp**

The second camp took place from 20 to 22 July. As with the first camp, the challenge was that schools are extremely far from one another. The Ohangwena Regional Council and the Office of the President (development planner for development of marginalized communities) again supported the initiative by availing 4x4 vehicles to transport participants from and back to their schools. The Eenhana Multi-Purpose Youth Centre assisted OYO by also providing transport for some participants and availing the hosel for accommodation and the youth centre for activities. The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture allowed participants to attend the camp and deserve big thank you for their cooperation. Naomi Moyo, a third-year student at UNAM of San decent, agreed to be a motivational speaker for the camp.

A total of 59 learners from twelve schools participated in the first camp and only 8 could attend the second. None of the participants from Oshisho Combined School attended, as they had all dropped out of school (see section on the competition as well). Three girls were pregnant and could not attend either (one from Omulunga CS, one from Ohakafiya CS and one from Omukukutu CS). The pregnancies were suspected during the first camp. The girl from Omukukutu CS said she was committed to returning after birth and completing her secondary education, and indeed, she came back to write her exams. It was difficult for her, as nobody could look after the child at home. A kind teacher then looked after the baby while the learner wrote her Grade 10 exams. This is a positive example of commitment from a teacher and needs to be applauded. The girl from Ohakafiya CS didn't return after birth because nobody else could look after the child. She did however say that she would try her best to return in 2019. An intriguing case was the girl from Omulunga CS, who later declared that she was not pregnant and had lied to get out of school because she was not interested. Her mother, who works at the school as a matron, then asked for the assistance of a teacher and took her daughter to the clinic for confirmation of her false pregnancy. Both mother and teacher believe the girl was pregnant and had performed an illegal abortion before she ran away from home to avoid confrontation.

	# attending camp 1	# attending camp 2
Attending both camps	51	51
Attending camp 1 only	8	
Attending camp 2 only		0
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>51</b>



*(learners presenting their group work)*

As per the first camp, participants were between the age of 10 and 20 and between grade 2 and 10, with the majority – 15 – in Grade 7. This represents a wider gap than in the Omaheke Region and meant that the camp had to be managed carefully for all girls to participate meaningfully. The programme was designed to build on the first camp.

The first evening was allocated to agree on rules, recap from the first camp and introduce topics for the second camp. Participants were divided into five groups and each group was given 15 minutes to get to know one another. The Saturday started with a warm-up and



visit from guests - representatives from the Embassy of Finland and the RACE officer of the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. Participants discussed issues around bullying, discovering your best self and what it means to take safe risks. Finally, participants were invited to watch the 'Kukuri' on child marriage and reflect on it. The Sunday was spent in in groups and working on character growth. Naomi Moyo also visited the group that day to deliver a motivational speech. Participants were then invited to give feedback on the camp.

Participants from Oshamono CS stood out in the beginning of the camp by delivering positive feedback regarding the first camp. "After the first camp when we returned to our school, we gave back feedback during assembly. Each one of us prepared a topic and we presented. We feel proud for sharing such important issues and we were told to listen attentively [during the second camp] and present again. We will make it because the camp helped us to be confident."

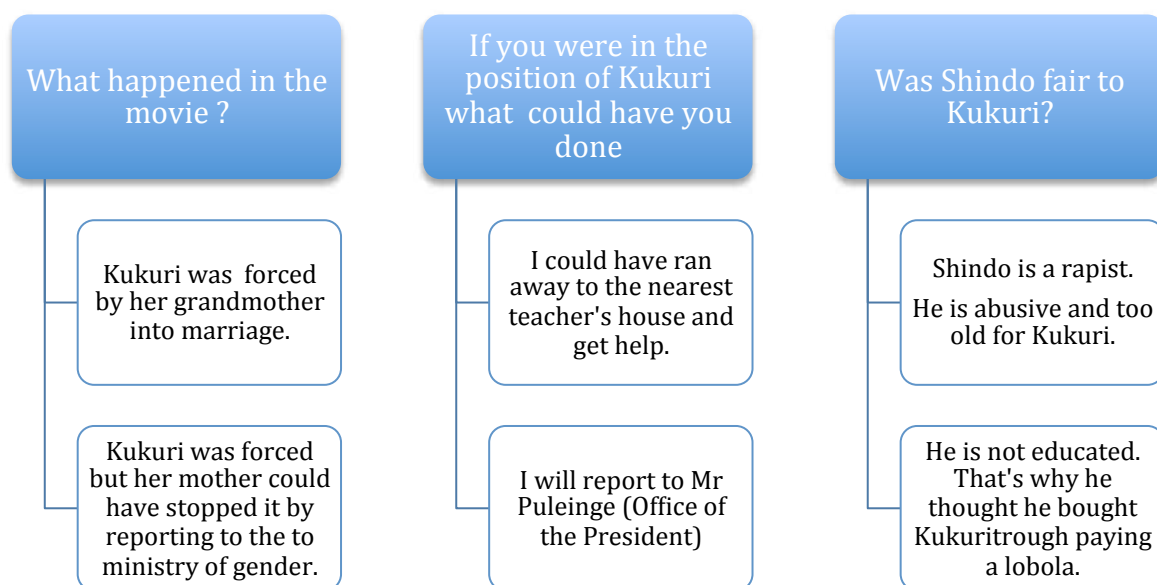
The second camp focused on the self and revolved around topics of 'Who can I become? and How can I become the best I can be?' It also looked at issues around bullying and what can be done if a girl feels bullied. Bullies were identified as possibly peers at school, parents at home, older brothers and sisters, teachers and people in position of power.

The following examples were recorded and discussed:

Groups	Case	Report	End result
Every action has Consequences	Learners calling others names	Learners reported to the teachers	Learners were suspended for a week and parents were called in for consultation
Princess	Bullies spread the myth that San learners are wasting their time and won't be successful. "Most of us are being discouraged to come to school because we are told to go back in the bush."	Some learners are reported to the principals and teachers	Some learners get punishment while others get away with it.
MCBONR	Learners used to shout vulgar words and insult others background.	"We are always reporting to the principal"	The bullies' parents were called and told to discipline their children at home. No learner likes it when their parents are called in so they dramatically change
Rise above hate	San learners are called different names such as stupid and ugly kudas. "This makes us stuck at one place in isolation."	"Sometimes it does not help because teachers are also calling us names."	Such behaviour stops with learners easily because they are afraid to be reported to the principal but teachers are difficult to report.
Work Hard	"A class teacher used to call us bad girls and making fun of our height."	"We report to the Life Skills teacher."	"The Life Skills teacher tells us not to be discouraged by other learners."

Comments about teachers being among the culprits were heart breaking. Comments were shared with the RACE officer for investigation.

Example of feedback received after watching the DVD:



At the end of the camp, learners pledged again to take care of themselves, to finish with their studies and to encourage fellow learners to remain in schools.



*(Warming up in the mornings)*

### **Omaheke San girls camp**

The second camp took place from 22 to 24 June. As with the first camp, the challenge was that schools are extremely far from one another. The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture once again availed transport to collect the girls at different schools and bring them to the Ben Hur centre, about 50 km near Gobabis. However, the officer in charge of transport almost forgot about the activity, which meant the transport of some learners was almost cancelled at the last minute. Fortunately and thanks to all involved, the camp could proceed with 55 girls from 12 schools attended, against 61 during the first camp.

	# attending camp 1	# attending camp 2
Attending both camps	50	50
Attending camp 1 only	11	
Attending camp 2 only		5
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>55</b>

Four out of five girls from Morukutu Primary School attended the first camp but could not attend the second because they were taking part in sport on Saturday, which meant the schools elected new girls for the camp. In other schools, it was mostly the same girls as in the first camp. A few others couldn't make it because of other reasons: one learner from Drimiopsis Primary School was sick while two from Vergenoeg Primary School attended a cultural event.



*(learners presenting their group work)*

The camp focused on the self – Who can I become? How can I become the best I can be? It also looked at issues around bullying and what can be done if a girl feels she is being bullied. Bullies were identified as being peers at schools, parents at home, older siblings, teachers and people in positions of power. At the end of the camp, learners pledged again to take care of themselves, to finish with their studies and encourage fellow learners to remain in schools.

#### **7.1.7. Launch of the San friendly school competition**

After all the activities implemented, it was time for the schools to take ownership over the programme and become active through the competition that encourages schools to work towards a better environment.

The rules of the competition were informed by the exchange visit that took place during the previous quarter. Ideas shared by teachers were of paramount importance in informing them of the direction that the competition should take.

In order to win the competition, each school has to complete three tasks:

- 1. Learning a traditional San song.** San children or an elder in the community can teach the song, and the most important is that non-San children must preform it. The purpose is to educate non-san children at the schools of the culture and language for them to respect the San people. Children must understand the meaning of the song.

**2. Creating a drama about tolerance.** The drama must show how bad bullying is and how important it is for all children to respect one another. Unlike the song, a mix of San and non-San children must perform it to demonstrate how they can work together. It must be no longer than five minutes, judges will be strict and shorten it if longer, and it must convey the relevant message strongly.

**3. Creating two school boards:**

The first one must clearly carry the message that the school is San friendly and the second must display positive elements of the San culture. Glue is provided for them to create a collage, while participants must also collect crafts and natural resources. Creativity is encouraged.

The schools have until September to complete the tasks and a presentation is currently being discussed with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, as there are two options:

- ✓ Either a team of three judges visit each school and evaluate the work done, as was done previously. This option has the advantage of being easy to organise but a disadvantage of schools not seeing what others have done.
- ✓ The second option is for schools to gather at a central point and present their work to judges and each other. The advantage of this option is that schools can share ideas and learn from each other, while a disadvantage is the difficulty in organising the big event due to complex logistics.

**7.1.8. Evaluation of the San Friendly competition**

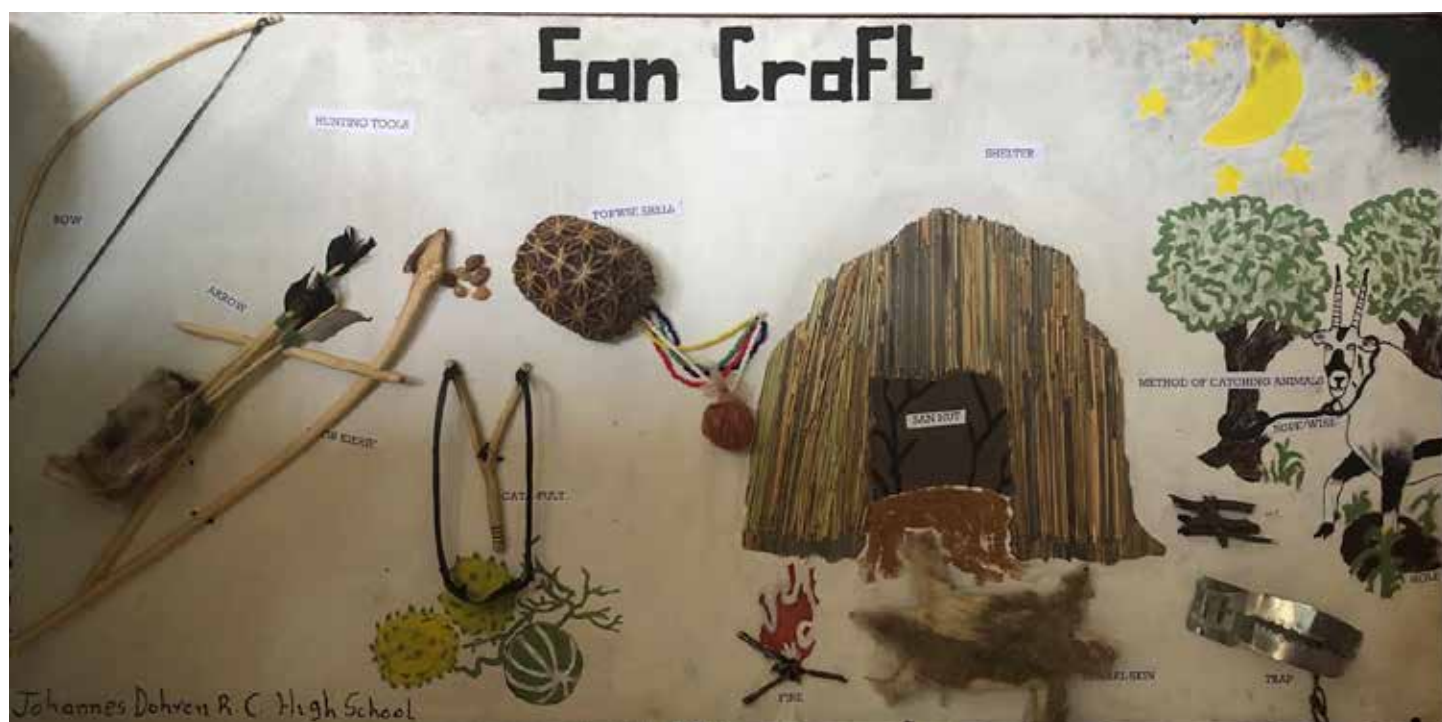
Most schools took part in the competition this year and teachers were more involved in preparations to make it a memorable event. This shows that both the exchange visit and creation of a Whatsapp group were successful. Learners, this time, performed not only for the judges but also for the whole school at the time of evaluation.

The option of creating one central venue for all schools to stage their performances for the judges was during the exchange visits suggested to the Ohangwena region, for example at the Eenhahan Multi-purpose Youth centre and with transport provided by the education ministry, but the said ministry experienced budget cuts and the complex logistics meant it was not possible.

At least three judges in each region evaluated the work according to the following criteria:

- ✓ How well organized was the school at the time of the competition? This included how prepared learners and teachers were.
- ✓ How San friendly is the school? This informing was obtained by asking questions to random learners about their school and how safe they feel coming every day.
- ✓ The performance itself: How well was the message communicated on the school boards and through the drama? Judges also looked at whether non-San children had learnt a traditional San song and therefore learnt about the San culture a little more.
- ✓ Number of school drop-outs: Judges asked for the drop-out register at school level and assessed the number of San children who dropped out during the year. They also assessed reasons for the drop-outs and whether the school had tried to reach out for the children and/or their parents.





*(example of a board – Johannes Dohren R.C. High School)*

### Evaluation of the competition in Ohangwena schools

The evaluation took place from 17 to 20 September. Judges were:

- ✓ Bernhard Haireka – RACE Assistant, Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture
- ✓ Nestor Pilukeni – Former chairperson of the Ohangwena Youth Group
- ✓ Naomi Moyo – third year San student at the University of Namibia
- ✓ Cecilia Petrus – OYO's general manager

OYO would like to thank the MEAC in the Ohangwena Region for the tremendous support. It was a great opportunity for the ministry representative to assess the work done by OYO and the situation in schools on behalf of the ministry.

As always in this region, access to schools is difficult. OYO rented a car but it appeared to have mechanical problems. Thankfully, the MEAC could assist for the programme to continue while the rental company was replacing the vehicle.

A total of twelve schools took part in the competition but this was quickly reduced when the Oshisho Combined School was immediately disqualified because learners rated the school as not San friendly. This was confirmed by the fact that 16 San learners had dropped out of school, including the 5 San girls who had taken part in the San girls' camps. Two of them were later found at Ekoka Combined School and all learners explained they left Oshisho CS because they were treated extremely badly. The principal of Ekoka CS confirmed that when the two learners first arrived, they were performing extremely poorly but are now well integrated and performing better. The RACE officer present during the evaluation expressed concern and said the matter will be reported to the Permanent Secretary, as no progress was made with this school where management is not involved and teachers are not making progress. See annex for details about how the various schools performed.

Oshamono Combined School won the competition with their educational and creative performance that integrated various elements. They were also friendly and prepared. Omutuku CS came second as they lost marks during the presentation of their work, which

was done and educational but not presented properly. The school was prepared and learners enjoyed themselves.



*(school head of department, school staff, judges and representatives from the MEAC during the hand-over ceremony)*

The winning school received a computer and trophy, while the runner up received only a trophy. The winners were awarded on 21 September during a small ceremony at their school. **The ceremony involved Mr Mike Luanda, RACE Officer and Senior Education Officer, Mr Bernard Haireka, RACE assistant.** The Head of Department received the computer in front of the whole school.

#### **Evaluation of the competition in Omaheke schools**

The evaluation took place from 24 to 28 September. Judges were:

- ✓ Harmony Howases – Second year student at the College of the Arts
- ✓ Sara Rooinasie - Second year student at the College of the Arts
- ✓ Cecilia Petrus – OYO's general manager

It was not possible to involve the MEAC or its regional office in this region; something that has become recurring problem. Schools in this region are extremely motivated and work hard towards the project but the regional office is not involving itself, as it should.

Twelve schools were initially part of the project but sadly; Chief Hosea Kutako Primary School was disqualified, as they did not start with any of the activities. Despite reminders and being part of the Whatsapp group, the school fell out. See annex for details about how the various schools performed.

The winner of the competition in this region was Johannes Dohreen High School, with the runner up being Dr Fisher Primary School. The winner worked hard to towards implementing the activities for them to win. All tasks were completed successfully and the time was well managed, which made the delivered information clear. Dr Fisher Primary School was creative because they used the board to complement the other activities; the board's content served as a basis for the performance itself. Overall, the boards used lots of natural resources. Regarding the sings, one swas about a rope and another was about

sitting around the fire and looking at the moon. The message against bullying appeared clearly in the drama.



*(OYO's general manager, Cecilia Petrus, handing over the trophy to the principal)*

The winning school received a computer and trophy while the runner up received only a trophy. The winners were awarded on 04 October during a small ceremony at their school, which is on a big farm located about 10km out of Gobabis. Learners from both the primary and secondary school attended the event with an official from the church located in-between them and the matron of the hostel. The principal received the computer during an assembly and gave very warm words of thanks.

#### **7.1.9. Brainstorming for further actions**

Other regions had started approaching OYO to find out why the San Matter project is limited to two regions. Various ideas are being shared and may lead to the preparation of a proposal for phase III. It is suggested that phase III should be about consolidating and expanding. However, the Embassy of Finland indicated that unfortunately no funding applications would be considered for 2019. Therefore, the idea of phase III will be put on hold for an indefinite period.

On the bright side, the Embassy of Finland indicated that an extension could be considered for 2019 with an extra funding of Euro 20,000.00. OYO brainstormed with its partners and prioritized the following ideas:

- ✓ One additional San girls' camp per region in early 2019 to motivate school enrolment and discourage drop-outs;
- ✓ One additional workshop and tour for the Ohangwena San youth group to further strengthen dynamics and continue the good collaboration that exists between the different stakeholders;
- ✓ Support to secure funding with new partners.

The proposal has been accepted and the activities will proceed in 2019.



### 7.1.10. Visibility actions

The following has been undertaken at the beginning of the year:

- ✓ Photos of the San girls camps have been shared on OYO's Facebook page;
- ✓ A short video clip of the Ohangwena San girls camp has been prepared and shared on OYO's Facebook page, where it reached 615 people. The link below has been forwarded to the Embassy of Finland - <https://youtu.be/3ION6hHznkk>
- ✓ A short one-page report that outlines results was also shared on OYO's Facebook page where it reached 476 people. Another page looking specifically on perception around child marriage in the San community is being prepared.

The Embassy of Finland invited the Permanent Secretary for the MEAC to be a guest of honour on the evening event organized for 19 June at the Goethe-Institut Namibia. The programme for the evening was as follows:

Welcoming by the Master of Ceremonies, Cecilia Petrus (OYO's general manager)

Introduction by H.E Pirkko-Liisa Kyöstilä (Ambassador, Embassy of Finland)

Short introduction of the San Matter project and results obtained by Philippe Talavera (OYO's director)

Dance performance: **Maria** – OYO dance troupe

Introduction of the keynote speaker by H.E. Pirkko-Liisa Kyöstilä

**Keynote address** by Sanet Steenkamp (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Educations, Arts and Culture)

Short introduction of the last dance piece by Philippe Talavera

Dance performance: **I am hungry** – OYO dance troupe

Special announcement by OYO board of Trustees

Closing remarks and cocktail



*(The Permanent Secretary, Sanet Steenkamp, giving a moving speech)*

With about 60 guests, the evening was considered by all a great success. It was an opportunity for the San Matter project to be presented. The Permanent Secretary made a heartfelt speech that moved many among the audience. After the formal part, many people stayed around to discuss, network and share ideas.





*(Networking after the main event)*

The Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, NBC, was present and reported on the event during the news bulletin on 21 June. <https://www.nbc.na/news/only-one-percent-san-children-finish-high-school.17781>. The Namibian Daily News, an online newspaper, published an article 'Uncertain future for San youth if obstacle remains unchallenged' – <https://namibiadailynews.info/uncertain-future-for-san-youth-if-obstacle-remain-unchallenged/>

In a thank you letter forwarded to OYO, the Permanent Secretary recommitted her support to OYO's projects and the commitment of her ministry to support activities.

Additionally

- ✓ Photos of the youth group workshops and tour have been shared on OYO's Facebook and Instagram pages;
- ✓ A short video clip of the piece 'I am hungry' presented during the event on the 19 June has been prepared and shared on OYO's Facebook and Instagram pages. It was viewed 146 times on Facebook and 52 times on Instagram at the time of this report.
- ✓ Both the NBC report and Namibian Daily News article were shared on OYO's Facebook page.

Of interest is to note the creation of Whatsapp groups for schools as part of the project in both Ohangwena and Omaheke regions. Those groups allow the sharing information to be easier and give schools a sense of belonging in relation to the project. Schools involved can share information and communicate easily. Not all schools have cell phone reception but those with poor network can access their Whatsapp messages when in a town or in an area with Wifi.

#### **7.1.11. Follow up and conclusion**

This project has been successful. OYO could allocate enough time and resources to make it a success and is excited by the fact that the project was granted an extension. It will allow us to follow up on the obtained results. In particular, OYO is interested in finding out:

- ✓ If girls part of the girls camps re-enroll in schools - it would be an indication of their commitment to education;
- ✓ Of those re-enrolling in school, how many have passed to the next grade;
- ✓ If youth part of the Ohangwena San Youth Group have successfully moved on (part of the training being to encourage them to enroll back in schools, enroll at NAMCOL or enroll at Vocational Training Centres).

The beginning of 2019 will therefore mark an important step in the management of this project. OYO would like to once again thank the Embassy of Finland for its valuable support.

## **7.2. San Matter in Otjozondjupa Region**

The objective of this smaller project was to encourage the re-enrolment of San girls in six schools in the Otjozondjupa region through two San girls' camps. The first camp took place in September 2017.

The second San girls' camp took place from 23 to 25 February 2018 and was attended by 23 of the same girls. Of the five girls who attended the first camp and did not attend the second camp, only one in fact had dropped out of school. One had received a scholarship to attend the prestigious Rukonga Vision School, a private school in the Kavango East region and three were absent from school on that Friday for personal reasons.

The second camp focused more on dreams and aspirations. Participants were encouraged to think beyond their school year and what they would like to become later in life. It also addressed issues around teenage pregnancy and child marriage because many San girls are expected to get married soon after menstruating and start the process of child bearing. Issues around traditional identity were also discussed – participants were invited to also practice some of their traditional dances. OYO staff noted that San girls became more confident and were willing to participate in both in lessons and traditional dancing.



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## San Matter Project

### San Girls' Camp

**Grootfontein 2018**

Venimus, Vidimus, Vicimus...the old latin adage, meaning "we came, we saw, we conquered", is an apt description of the events that unfolded at the San Girls' Camp 2, held in Grootfontein this February 2018.

This was the second camp in this project. During the first camp, the girls had been challenged to stay in school and advance to the next grade. We are happy to report that out of the original 28 participants, only one girl did not return to school the following year.

Although 8 girls were not promoted to the next grade either because they failed exams or were not able to write exams, it bodes well with OYO's intervention which suggests that educating the girls on the importance of education, and providing a little assistance keeps girls in school. Of course we would like them to pass and advance, but if they are outside school these goals become harder to attain as there is often no structure to support these goals outside a formal setting.

The camp itself was a great success and executed with logistical precision. The girls knew each other from the previous camp so they mingled well and participated with the zest and enthusiasm of old friends reuniting.

Topics covered during the camp include child marriage, personal hygiene and the importance of education amongst others.

Tuyoleni Asipala, a grade 9 learner from Coblenz Combined School, stated that, "we are often pressured

by financial circumstances to get married to older men. These men approach our parents with money and because many of us are poor, our parents compel us to get married at a young age."

On the matter of personal hygiene, many girls were happy to receive the gift of toiletries OYO presented them with at the start of the camp. Again, they indicated that lack of funds made it hard for them to buy personal sanitary goods that young girls often need as they mature.

Throughout the camp the girls participated in a variety of activities designed to build trust, take pride in San identity and instill self confidence. Because this group was familiar with each other they were more willing to participate in the mandated activities without any prompting from the staff. Many of the girls wore their traditional beads and shared oral tradition passed down to them by their elders through song and dance.

The camp ended with a further recommitment to educational goals. The girls signed a pledge promising to stay in school in 2018. Based on the promise they kept the year before, we are confident that they will follow through.



**OUT OF 28 GIRLS WHO ATTENDED**

- 18** Had siblings that had dropped out of school
- 2** Had siblings who completed school
- 7** Have Siblings who are still in school

**"FROM A TOTAL OF 28 GIRLS WHO TOOK PART IN THE PROJECT"**

**27 (96%)** Re-enrolled in school in 2018  
*Only one girl did not come back to school in 2018.*

**19 (70%)** were promoted to the next grade.

*Of which one girl got a bursary to start at the prestigious Vision School for promising children.*

**8** were not promoted to the next grade.  
*(7 failed exams and 1 did not write exams)*

This short project is deemed successful as 96% of the participants re-enrolled in schools in 2018. No follow up could however take place to assess if the 27 participants completed their school year, which is a limitation of such short-term projects.

## 8. In and Out project

This is a continuing project on the health rights of offenders in Namibia (Prisoners in Namibia are referred to as offenders or inmates). In 2016 OSISA supported OYO to undertake a study on sexual dynamics and HIV transmission amongst inmates. The study established the presence of new HIV infections in prisons, which raised concerns and highlighted the need to validate sexual practices amongst inmates and the state of HIV prevention in correctional services.

OYO thus proposed a second phase of the project with a specific focus on disseminating the study findings, while continuing the work that had started with inmates. OYO also intends to use the findings and inform advocacy and influence initiatives around access to health services, especially HIV prevention services for inmates in Namibia.

This report summaries the work done between September 2017 and October 2018. It will summarise activities organised with inmates and the progress made with advocacy work.

## 8.1. Executive summary

The second phase of the project:

- ✓ Continue the work done with inmates in six of the correctional facilities in order to reinforce the messages they received, continue addressing HIV related issues with them and continue encouraging them to go for an HIV test;
- ✓ Start training inmates to become peer educators in the facilities
- ✓ Share information gained during phase one, in particular around HIV incidence in Namibian correctional facilities
- ✓ Organise events to advocate for the introduction of condoms in correctional facilities

The following was achieved during the second phase of the project:

Targets	Achieved	Comments
1. At least five briefs/one pagers developed and circulated	Only 2 briefs developed and 1 circulated	OYO developed the 2 pagers to present the results on HIV incidence. It took longer than expected to have the pager approved by the Ministry of Safety and Security than anticipated. OYO focused this year on presenting it as often as possible and feared it would be forgotten if other briefs were produced too quickly.
2. Two workshops held per facility, six facilities targeted	Achieved: 2 one-week workshops held per facilities, six facilities reached	Facilities are in Windhoek, Hardap, Lüderitz, Oluno, E. Shikongo and Grootfontein
3. At least 120 inmates involved in the workshops in correctional facilities	Exceeded – between 180 and 190 inmates involved in the workshops	Workshops are very popular among inmates
4. At least 300 inmates regularly tested for HIV – data properly captured	Exceeded – 238 inmates tested during workshop 1 and 230 during workshop 2	
5. Ten advocacy events organised	Exceeded: four events organised around the two-pagers (4 meetings) and eight events organised around the DVD 'Salute' (8 screening and discussion)	
6. Documented use of social media and press to create dialogue	Achieved: social media available online and press release collected and filed	
7. Documented interactions with inmates and dialogue at facility level	Achieved and in particular, debates organised between inmates and/or officers around the issue of condoms in correctional facilities	
8. Documented lobbying actions and responses from MPs, senior officers and stakeholders	Achieved: all meetings and events properly documented	Note: informal meetings such as one including the First Lady - hand-over of the DVD 'Salute' and two involving the Minister of Health and Social Services not documented
9. Care studies: interviews and feedback from people involved in the process	Achieved: interviews and feedback received, particularly after the screening and discussion around the DVD	This has led to the preparation of an opinion piece that has been prepared end phase II but has not been released yet

## 8.2. Activities with inmates (targets 2, 3 and 4)

During the first phase of the project:

- ✓ OSISA had supported three workshops in six facilities
- ✓ The Embassy of the Republic of Germany had also supported three workshops in another six facilities
- ✓ The Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria supported a fourth workshop in all twelve facilities

Based on results obtained, six facilities were selected for the second phase of the project.

They are:

- ✓ Hardap and Lüderitz correctional facilities: the two facilities where a zero-conversion was observed
- ✓ Windhoek and Oluno correctional facilities: two facilities with a high HIV prevalence
- ✓ Grootfontein correctional facility: a facility where OYO found a high number of first timers testing HIV positive.
- ✓ E. Shikongo correctional facility: a facility with a high number of inmates on ARV

### 8.2.1. Workshop 5 with inmates

The idea of the workshop is to continuously interact with inmates, learn from them and encourage continues HIV testing to lengthen the baseline survey.

In most facilities, the following activities took place:

- ✓ Refresher classes on HIV/AIDS
- ✓ Creation of new drama and dances on topics selected by inmates
- ✓ Selection of potential trainers

In Grootfontein, the workshop was organised slightly differently.

Facility	Dates	Number of inmates	Comments
Lüderitz correctional facility	15 to 19 January	20	This facility is always well organised. On day one, however an officer brought an AK47 gun into the rehearsal space, which scared all the participants. Fortunately, the incident did not repeat itself. Training on HIV was recapped and dances and drama were prepared during the workshop. Two short performances were prepared for the Friday. They were presented to fellow inmates and officers. As part of the presentation, a discussion around the findings from phase was held and led to a debate around the issue of condoms in correctional facilities.
Hardap correctional facility	15 to 19 January	Average 39	This facility has always been a problem. The venue for the workshop is a little outside the main building and often times, the facilitator is left alone with the inmates, which is not always safe. Inmates however behaved well during the workshop from Monday to Thursday. A big fight erupted on Thursday, resulting in the suspension of all activities on Friday. The facilitator on Friday took the opportunity to work with 20 female inmates – a group not normally reached by OYO activities. Treatment and adherence were worked on during the session with women.

Windhoek correctional facility	22 to 26 January	Between 27 and 33	Participants in this large facility come from different units, which can make gathering them before workshops challenging. The workshop however went well and participants were eager to engage. They prepared two short dramas, one of which also looked at what happened to the offenders while in custody – not yet in correctional facilities but in the police holding cells. At the end of the week, the workshop facilitator and facility counsellor visited all units to meet managers and discuss ways of improving the next workshop.
Oluno correctional facility	29 January to 02 February	Between 20 and 38	The week was slow as the facility was not well organised and there was fear that one inmate had cholera, which meant some sections were isolated. Despite the challenge, and daily change in the number of attendees, the workshop could proceed. Inmates worked on the issue of treatment and how important it is, and how to deal with some of the challenges inmates may encounter. A facilitator could also work with 20 women inmates on the last day. Participants did not present their work on the last day because they preferred to keep their performance for an internal event scheduled for 14 February.
E. Shikongo correctional facility	05 to 09 February	Around 40	Training in this facility is difficult because all units want to participate but officers don't want inmates to mix. Most days were divided as follows: 8h30-12h30 workshops with unit 3A and B and afternoon training of peer educators - mostly from units 1 and 2. The morning workshops covered mostly basic training on HIV and the creation of short dramas and dances. On the last day, offenders presented their drama, mostly to other offenders with only two officers present. The facility counsellor was very supportive and well organised.
Grootfontein correctional facility	12 to 16 February	Between 16 and 32	This is a receiving facility, meaning the large number of inmates is in transition to another facility for permanent incarceration, which makes follow ups here difficult. Most inmates were new to the project and therefore, the facilitator started from the basics of HIV training. The group started work on two performances, one looking at treatment and another looking at stigma and discrimination. Both stories could not be finished within a week and will continue during workshop 6. The counselling session was well organised.

The workshop leader manager could monitor and evaluate the work at E. Shikongo CF. He spent two days with the workshop leader. With units here not allowed to mix, it was important to ensure that the work delivered effectively in such a short time. The workshop leader manager was happy with what he observed.

The workshops are an opportunity for inmates to go for the test that inmates are encouraged to go for. Results are entered in a master grid to follow up on zero-conversion. The grid is complex to manage because of transfer of inmates between facilities. Final



results (and assessment as to whether new zero-conversions happened) will be available after the 6<sup>th</sup> workshop.

**A total of 238 inmates were tested during workshop 5.**

It is important to keep in mind that inmates are encouraged to register from workshop to workshop. They are trained on issues around HIV during each workshop and it is expected that enrolling in the OYO programme and experiencing that training has them maintain a negative HIV status or learn how to live with the opposite. If OYO finds none to very few new zero-conversions with workshop 5 and 6 among participants who have adhered to the OYO programme, it would help to prove that such interventions are effective.

**8.2.2 Tour of the dance troupe**

Inmates enjoy the OYO dance troupe and often ask after the dancers. It is also a chance for OYO to discuss issues that may not otherwise be easy to talk about. For this phase of the project, the dance troupe:

- ✓ Revived the piece 'In and Out'. This piece follows the story of an inmate who gets raped while in a correctional facility, does not report the case and does not tell his girlfriend upon release. He doesn't know he has been infected and when learns of his HIV positive status, its too late and he has already infected his girlfriend.
- ✓ Created the piece 'Kitchen Boy'. During the research part (phase I), OYO came across cases where inmates claim to have sexual relationships with correctional facility staff (either uniformed or non-uniformed staff). This is an issue that is very sensitive and difficult to prove – as it may just be offenders inventing stories. The piece looks at what would happen if it were true and how it could lead to offenders infecting non-offenders, or vice versa.
- ✓ Created the piece 'It's your fault'. During the research part (phase I), inmates living with HIV complained about stigma and discrimination. They explained it is very hard for them to keep their status confidential because they often need to visit the clinic for pills and get special food. Officers are also not sensitive and unintentionally disclose inmates' status. The piece looks at the consequences of feeling discriminated against while living with HIV in the facility.



*(addressing discrimination against inmates living with HIV)*

The facilities asked OYO to present the pieces to all units and not just to the few offenders part of the project. They feel other inmates also need to receive information and gain knowledge.

Facility	Unit	Offenders		Officers		Total
		Female	Male	Female	Male	
Windhoek C.F.	1 & 2	0	26	4	4	34
Windhoek C.F.	Remand	0	95	0	5	100
Windhoek C.F.	4	0	49	0	6	55
Windhoek C.F.	5 & 6	0	135	1	1	137
Windhoek C.F.	7	0	90	0	3	93
Windhoek C.F.	A section	0	98	2	1	101
Windhoek C.F.	B section	0	107	3	2	112
Windhoek C.F.	3	0	70	2	1	73
Luderitz C.F.	All	0	228	15	14	257
Hardap C.F.	Female	18	0	13	4	35
Hardap C.F.	B section	0	130	12	4	146
Hardap C.F.	A section	0	142	0	4	146
Hardap C.F.	C section	0	297	4	5	306
Oluno C.F.	All	24	211	18	10	263
E. Shikongo C.F.	1 A&B	0	134	3	7	144
E. Shikongo C.F.	2	0	131	1	5	137
E. Shikongo C.F.	Parade	0	0	36	31	67
E. Shikongo C.F.	3A	0	135	1	6	142
E. Shikongo C.F.	3B	0	63	2	2	67
Grootfontein C.F.	All	2	71	7	9	89
		<b>44</b>	<b>2212</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>2504</b>



(addressing the difficult and controversial issue of sexual relationship between inmates and female officers)



A total of 2,212 male inmates were reached with the program. At E. Shikongo correctional facility, officers asked for a special performance for all employees. They felt that not only offenders should be trained and staff should also benefit. The performance was organised on 28 March as part of the morning parade. The officer in charge wrote a feedback letter, attached in annex. It is a great progress to see that officers are now getting involved in the project and discussion.

### 8.2.3. First training of trainers

This is a new component for this project. The issue of sustainability is important. Workshops are for a limited number of offenders. Yet at any point in time there are many more offenders. Also on a weekly basis there are more offenders joining.

In order to address this issue, OYO suggested training some of the most reliable workshop participants for them to become trainers, which would be a process on its own. During workshop 5, the idea was shared with the facility and workshop participants who selected those they felt should become trainers. Trainers attended a couple of sessions and were given a couple of tasks to complete before the next training. Selection has been done as follows:

- ✓ 12 offenders from E. Shikongo Correctional Facility, selected from Unit 1 and 2
- ✓ 10 offenders from Lüderitz C.F., selected among offenders with the longest sentences to serve
- ✓ 5 offenders from Windhoek C.F. selected among offenders with long sentences
- ✓ 11 offenders from Hardap C.F. selected inmates based on their motivation and enthusiasm
- ✓ 6 offenders from Oluno C.F. self selected
- ✓ 5 offenders and 8 supporting officers from Grootfontein C.F. Since this is a receiving facility, it was feared that most offenders would be transferred sooner or later. Therefore a different scheme involving officers will be tried with this facility.

In most facilities, selected offenders received an HIV refreshing course. At Grootfontein C.F., a programme was prepared to try and assess how the facility could become more active. Refer to their programme attached as annex.

### 8.2.4. Workshop 6 with inmates

Thanks to the workshops, a pull of inmates is now looking forward to the quarterly interaction with OYO. OYO provides a safe space where they can learn, interact and share. New inmates join to replace inmates who have been released.

In most facilities, the following activities took place:

- ✓ Refresher classes on STIs
- ✓ Creation of new drama and dances on topics selected by inmates
- ✓ Continuing the training of potential trainers

Facility	Dates	Number of inmates	Comments
Windhoek correctional facility	16 to 20 April	Between 26 and 27	This workshop was well organised. An officer was present, to ensure all ran smoothly. On Monday, offenders who had attended several workshops welcomed newcomers and encouraged them to take the activities seriously. On Wednesday, the workshop had

			to end by lunch for sport activities. A recap was done on various STIs. Two dramas were prepared – one looking at HIV transmission and another looking at behaviour and how to avoid getting privileges unnecessarily cut away because of one's bad attitude. On Friday, the show was presented to Unit 1 and Unit 3.
Luderitz correctional facility	23 to 27 April	Between 18 and 20	As always, this facility was well organised which meant no incidences interfered and operations ran smoothly. Both the training on STIs and the Art workshops took place. The drama looked at issues around peer pressure, offenders trying to lure newcomers to have sex in exchange for food, Post-Exposure Prophylaxis and the importance of a strong self-esteem. It was presented on Friday to the other offenders who enjoyed the event. Officers as always praised the work done by OYO and asked OYO to visit more than one week per quarter because workshops are beneficial to inmates and also improves on their behaviour.
Hardap correctional facility	23 to 27 April	Between 21 and 35	For the first time, this facility was very well organised. Inmates have clearly changed and are disciplined. The activities were carried out as planned. The facility has a new head of security, which had a positive impact on the workshop. The groups chose to focus again on treatment adherence and the issue of discrimination. It was presented on the Friday to inmates and the officer in charge, who appreciated the quality of the work done.
Oluno correctional facility	02 to 06 July	Between 26 and 36 male and 12 female	At that time OYO had a woman intern from the Netherlands, Louisa Landsorp, who joined the programme and worked with women offenders, while OYO's facilitator worked with the men offenders. The week was extremely well organised. Two stories were prepared. The story of the male offenders focused on treatment adherence and how offenders and officers can work hand-in-hand to tackle stigma and discrimination. Work with women offenders focused on how HIV can also be transmitted between women inmates. The show was presented on Friday to an appreciative audience. The facility welcomed the fact that women offenders could be included.
E. Shikongo correctional facility	14 to 18 May	Around 50	The officer this time allocated a space for the workshop in their department, not in the units, and agreed that offenders from both unit 1 and 2 could mix. A larger group was therefore formed. The workshop ran smoothly, despite the fact it was a fairly large group. Four plays were prepared. Two looked at treatment adherence, including the fact that some offenders crush and 'smoke' their ARVs to get high. Two plays dealt with discipline and the importance to follow the facility's regulations. The plays were presented on Friday. Also on Thursday, during the 'testing day', more offenders joined – 94 offenders were tested.

Grootfontein correctional facility	09 to 13 July	Between 14 and 20	This is a receiving facility, which means having to accommodate a large group of inmates in transition to another correctional facility. This affected the week's workshop, as six offenders part of the programme were mid-week transferred to another facility. Inmates enjoyed the workshop and because the group was smaller towards the end of the week the facilitator could focus on individual needs. The show addressed the difference between PEP and PrEP, and could be presented on Friday. It was very well received.
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The workshops are an opportunity for inmates to go for the test. Inmates are encouraged to get tested. Results are entered in a master grid to follow up on zero-conversion. The grid is complex to manage because inmates are regularly transferred to other correctional facilities. Results were entered and the grid is being analysed for a report.

**A total of 230 inmates were tested during workshop 6.**

#### **8.2.5. Second training of trainers**

Most of the trainers selected for the first workshop could attend the second that focused on HIV/AIDS training: transmission, prevention, testing and treatment. They also addressed issues around other Sexually Transmitted Infections.

#### **8.2.6. Evaluation of trainers**

The idea was to assess whether the trainers had gained enough knowledge to carry out activities on their own. A tool was agreed upon to evaluate them. To ensure impartiality, it was also agreed that the evaluation should be done by OYO staff who were not part of the training; a third party would require clearance by the MoEAC. OYO production manager and general manager can also carry out the evaluation, as they were not directly part of the workshops. See evaluation grid used to evaluate the trainees.

The lead facilitator spent Monday and Tuesday recapping training with the selected inmates and explaining the evaluation process to them. Inmates were to be tested two by two in a real situation. Groups of inmates had to be organised so that trainers could facilitate sessions to them in front of the evaluators.

Evaluators joined on Wednesday and evaluated pairs of inmates, giving them feedback at the end of their activities. On Friday afternoon, those qualifying to become peer educators received a certificate and T-shirt.

Grootfontein Correctional Facility needs to be put aside – since it is a receiving facility, no offenders could stay long enough to be part of the programme. Three officers however wanted to be trained and to take over once OYO left. They presented the class successfully and while they can't qualify as peer educators amongst inmates, they have the knowledge to work with inmates on activities linked to HIV.



(trainers from Oluno Correctional Facility with their Tshirt and certificates – photo taken with permission from the inmates)

Facility	# of candidates	# who graduated	# who failed
Windhoek Correctional Facility	11	7	4
Lüderitz Correctional Facility	6	4	2
E. Shikongo Correctional Facility	12	6	6
Hardap Correctional Facility	11	9	2
Oluno Correctional Facility	7	7	0
Grootfontein Correctional Facility	3	3	0
TOTAL		36	

From the other five facilities and out of 47 inmates who attended the class, **33 qualified as peer educators** (70%). The aim of OYO was not to fail offenders willing to be peer educators. OYO wanted to make sure they could deliver the right information and effectively become an agent of change in their facilities.

One of the main comments from the evaluators was that most trainers have the knowledge. They could very easily give a class on HIV transmission, prevention, testing and treatment but were struggling a little with prevention; not sure how to present it under their context. Most didn't know how to use condoms and could not do a demonstration as there were no condoms. They also struggled to simply describe how condoms should be used but despite that, most did well. Most trainers also struggled organising activities with inmates, partially because they didn't know how to prepare or facilitate an activity with peers. They felt it was an area where they needed more support to understand that being a peer educator does change the relationship between one inmate and his peers – inmates need more training on how to interact with fellow inmates in a respectful way.

### 8.2.7. Other

The Hardap Correctional Facility's social worker was active and involved in our programme. While condoms can't be introduced, she is trying to promote Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC), which unfortunately is not easy to obtain medical support to execute. During the OYO workshops, she managed to motivate 80 inmates to get circumcised. A list was prepared and she asked OYO to share it with the MoHSS and other stakeholders to ensure the activity takes place as soon as possible. The list was forwarded to CDC as they have a VMMC project. This is currently being followed up.

It is interesting to note that the workshops succeed in encouraging inmates to reflect on issues around sexual and reproductive health. If more inmates get circumcised, it will already be a step in the right direction. Increasing demand for VMMC services was not part of this project but is an interesting by-product.

At Evaristus Shikongo Correctional Facility, a debate on the introduction of condoms in the facility was organised. Offenders suggested various options to prevent HIV transmission in correctional facilities. They include:

- ✓ Introduce condoms
- ✓ Educate offenders
- ✓ Introduce anger management programs
- ✓ Have more programs such as OYO to ease offenders' stress.

### **8.3. Activities around advocacy (targets 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9)**

#### **8.3.1. Production and dissemination of the two-pager**

At the end of phase I, the Ministry of Safety and Security agreed to produce a two-pager summarising some of the results obtained around HIV incidence and prevalence. The two-pager was produced and printed.

During this phase of the programme, results were shared as follows:

- ✓ With senior management of the Ministry of Safety and Security during two meetings;
- ✓ With the Ministry of Safety and Security health steering committee during their quarterly meeting;
- ✓ With UNAIDS during a meeting with the country representative.

Furthermore, copies of the two-pagers were also distributed to the Ministry of Health and Social Services, NANASO (representing the Global Fund) and the Embassy of the Republic of Germany.

The two-pagers report was also shared with other facilities part of the programme. Of interest was the presentation of results done at Lüderitz Correctional Facility as part of the workshop 5. Attendees started looking at possible solutions after the presentation, which led to the organisation of a debate around the issue of condoms in correctional facilities, with 20 offenders and 5 officers taking part. All agreed that sodomy is happening in correctional facilities but 18 offenders and 4 officers sided against condoms in the facility; against 2 offenders and 1 officer siding for.

A similar debate was reported at E. Shikongo correctional facility but was attended by only inmates. Nine inmates were against the introduction of condoms at facility level, while three were in favour. Of interest is a comment from one of the inmates in favour of the introduction of condoms in facilities: "Most of us worry about the image it will give us instead of worrying about our health (...) introducing condoms in the facility will not



promote something that is already happening but will give a chance for those practicing it to protect themselves.”

**DOES HIV TRANSMISSION OCCUR IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY?**

**A fact sheet**

The purpose of this survey, done in collaboration with the Ministry of Safety and Security, was to establish whether or not HIV transmission happens among offenders during incarceration in correctional facilities. The lead research question was: is HIV transmission taking place in correctional facilities. In other words, 'are some offenders HIV negative when entering the correctional facilities and becomes HIV positive upon release?'

**METHODOLOGY**

To address the question, we needed to have offenders voluntarily participating to be part of the survey by voluntarily being tested for HIV and repeat the test every three (3) months for a period of one (1) year during workshops. The study was conducted in twelve (12) Correctional Facilities namely Windhoek, Hardap, Erastus Shikongo, Divundu, Olune, Elizabeth Nepemba, Walvis Bay, Omaruru, Grootfontein, Luderitz, Keetmanshoop and Swakopmund Correctional Facilities during the period of April 2016 to July 2017. During the research, having offenders coming for repeat test was the common shortfall among others.

OYO as an organization uses Arts to create social awareness. Art workshops held quarterly for a week were used to mobilise and motivate offenders to partake in the study. Workshops were scheduled during weekdays as follows:

- Monday to Wednesday, offenders were trained on HIV (week 1), STI (week 2), Self Esteem (week 3) and Opportunistic infection including TB (week 4)
- Thursday was the HIV testing day
- Friday was used as a presentation day, presenting the work of the week to other offenders who were not part of the workshop. This was to raise awareness, educate, and encourage offenders to take part in following workshops

**THE SAMPLE**

Participation in the survey was voluntary. The sample included offenders with sentences longer than one (1) year who are HIV negative or with unknown status. Offenders who were known HIV positive were not part of the survey.

HIV Prevalence is the number of people living with HIV at a given time – in the case of this survey, at the time the workshops took place. However since the sampling was not random (known HIV positive offenders were not part of the project), this project cannot accurately indicate prevalence. It can however affirm the number of inmates found HIV positive in the sampled population.

During the first workshop, 315 offenders were tested, but subsequently the number became less due to transfers, release on parole or remission and disinterest. This prompted the survey team to recruit new inmates with each workshop in order to have an adequate survey sample. A shortfall of 136 offenders was experienced since only 179 offenders who were part of the first workshop took part in workshop 2. This led to the recruitment of 88 new offenders during workshop 2, totaling to 267 offenders for workshop 2. During workshop 3, only 210 offenders of the 267 who took part in workshop 2 were tested. 21% of offenders were lost to the survey in workshop 3 because of aforementioned reasons. 108 new offenders were recruited during workshop 3 in order to maintain the survey sample.

Therefore with each workshop some offenders got tested for the first time.

**“out of the 99 offenders who were for sure HIV negative at the beginning of the project, two became HIV positive at the end of the project”**

place. It indicates however that there is a significant number of offenders living with HIV not on treatment because they don't know their status.

The following is the distribution per facility of offenders testing positive during the survey:

- Erastus Shikongo – 8,
- Olune – 8, Grootfontein – 8,
- Keetmanshoop – 3, Walvis Bay – 2,
- Omaruru, Swakopmund and Windhoek each had 1.

A total of 600 HIV negative offenders has taken part in the survey, however only 99 offenders have taken part longer than the window period. Hence the survey sample is only 99 offenders (16% of the initial population).

**Out of the 99 offenders, two (2) offenders seroconverted subsequent to the window period. The offenders are from Hardap and Luderitz Correctional Facilities.**

For this survey an HIV incidence is 2%. This is fairly a significant number.

**RESULTS**

HIV incidence is the number of new HIV infections in a population during a certain time period. In our case it is the number of new HIV infections among inmates part of our survey between April 2016 and July 2017.

Inmates testing negative were followed up during the duration of the survey. In order to ascertain that infection happened during incarceration, a window period of six (6) months was considered. Therefore only the following group of offenders were considered:

- Inmates testing HIV negative workshop 1 and workshop 2 and sero-converting either workshop 3 or workshop 4;
- Inmates testing HIV negative workshop 2 and workshop 3 and sero-converting workshop 4.

This is depicted in the table below:

	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 4
Repeat 1,2,3,4	115	179	151	65
Repeat 1,3,4			15	8
Repeat 1,2,4				1
Repeat 1,4				5
Repeat 2,3,4		88	44	22
Repeat 3,4				0
Repeat 3,4			108	20

**CONCLUSION**

It can be concluded that HIV transmission happens in correctional facilities as it is evident that two (2) offenders seroconverted during the survey. The offenders were followed up long enough to exclude the window period. The transmission happens in both the large and small correctional facilities.

In this study alone, the mode of transmission could not be confirmed thus calling for the need to conduct a study focusing on the mode of transmission. Reaching a zero new HIV infection among offenders in Correctional Facilities is a goal for the Ministry. Strategies to reach this goal will have to be developed and implemented as soon as possible.

For more information about survey results contact the Ministry of Safety and Security, Namibian Correctional Service, Commissioner-General's office.

**To reach zero new HIV infections in Namibia, the Namibian Correctional Service needs to offer more prevention methods to offenders.**

This project received support from:

- The German Embassy: three workshops per facility in six facilities (Windhoek, Hardap, Keetmanshoop, Luderitz, Omaruru and E. November)
- OGAA: three workshops per facility in another six facilities (Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, Olune, E. Shikongo, Grootfontein and Divundu)
- Global Fund: fourth workshop in all twelve facilities.

The two-pager was posted on OYO's Facebook but still needs to be distributed more widely, in particular to members of Parliament. This is a delicate balance, as the Ministry of Safety and Security is careful with who can receive what information.

### 8.3.2. Presentation of the DVD 'Salute' and gathering of public opinion

The DVD 'Salute' were produced under phase I and with funding from the Global Fund. The Ministry of Safety and Security bought 50 copies, with the idea to use the DVD during orientation sessions for inmates joining a new facility. Responsibility has been given to the Division: Rehabilitation. A meeting between senior managers of the division and OYO's director took place end January. Ideas to best use the DVD and train officers on how to use it were brainstormed. One of the officers was tasked with the preparation of a training manual for officers on the use of the DVD. She was expected to finalise the manual by May. Little feedback has been received from the Ministry regarding how they intend to use the DVD.

Nine public screenings were organised. Since the DVD is rated 16, screening happened indoor, which limits the size of the audience. The DVD was presented on 13 December in Swakopmund (63 people attended), 26 February in Rehoboth (32), Mariental on 27 February (28), Keetmanshoop on 28 February (42), 31 July in Ondangwa (24), Ongwediva on

01 August (12), in Windhoek on 15 August (55) and Rundu on 08 September (20). A screening was scheduled in Oshakati on 02 August at the Multi-Purpose Youth Centre but had to be cancelled due to a lack of attendance.



*(example of promotional material)*

Each screening is followed by a discussion with the audience but more importantly, audience members are then invited to record on camera their feelings about the introduction of condoms in correctional facilities. The idea is to create an opinion piece about the public's perception of condoms in correctional facilities. This opinion piece can be used to convince policy makers that public members are not against the issue.

The selection of venues for screenings is always a challenge. Out of the nine screenings organised, only 276 attended – an average of 31 attendees per screening. While OYO seeks to have quality discussions with the public after and therefore aims at 40 to 50 attendees per screening, it is not always possible because of the low attendance. Halls are rarely close to people and not easily accessible as they are mostly in towns – not everyone has transport. Even in Windhoek, there are no halls deep in Katutura. In the North of Namibia, all the halls are centrally located and far from the targeted communities. OYO is learning from this experience and acknowledges that more screenings are needed to sensitise more people.

The opinion piece has been prepared based on comments from different people from the audience. After watching the DVD, it is obvious that most people are in favour of the introduction of condoms in correctional facilities and giving graphic representations of problem helps people, particularly those in charge of the correctional faculties, to change their mind. Very few people, after watching the DVD, were of the opinion that condoms should not be introduced in facilities. Putting together a series of comments from people and keeping it interesting for a potential audience to watch is not an easy task. Various drafts have been prepared. The opinion piece has been finalised at the end of the project but has not been tested.

The opinion piece is supplemented by a two-page leaflet that besides consisting of the audience's comment, it also includes comments of inmates gathered during the workshops. Drafting the completed pager was challenging, as was any other, and the video remains untested.

A lecturer from UNAM attended the screening in Ondangwa and asked for a screening to be organised for final-year social worker students in Windhoek. The 35 students watched the DVD with the lecturer, who then invited Production Manager Joshua Homateni, to facilitate a discussion. It was a great opportunity to hear from the students, most of which were in favour of introducing PrEP or condoms in correctional facilities. Some felt PrEP might be easier to manage as it is less related to the sexual activity itself, while others felt condoms would also help prevent other STIs. Since they will graduate in 2019, and some may join the correctional facilities pool of social workers, they were an important audience to sensitise.

### **8.3.3. Other**

Apart from the screenings, OYO took the chance to also have radio interviews and raise awareness of the issues. Interviews took place on West Coast Radio in Swakopmund and NBC Afrikaans radio on 13 December, Life FM radio (Rehoboth, 26 February), Pulse FM (Karas Community radio in Keetmanshop, 28 February), Radio Wave (Windhoek, 30 July) and Rapid Radio (Rundu, 08 September). Those radio interviews were a great opportunity to discuss the film and the issue of HIV transmission in correctional facilities.

## **8.4. Conclusion**

This project is successful. In particular, the concept of enabling inmates or officers to be trainers has the potential to make the project sustainable: knowledge learnt at facility level remains within the facility. It is clear from the evaluation that trainers have the required knowledge to train fellow inmates on HIV related issues, even though they feel less comfortable organising activities with inmates. They can easily organise classes but feel less comfortable organising other activities. More training is needed to help them become advocates and/or know how to organise art workshops.

Three aspects however need to be thought through and could become the basis for phase III:

- ✓ Are the workshops efficient? From this year's intervention, it seems that inmates attending the workshops on a regular basis are less likely to contract HIV. While more data is needed, this proves the intervention is effective and that the model needs to be expanded at other facilities. Continuing to follow the zero-results of inmates is therefore important. Unfortunately, this model is costly because workshops need to be repeated regularly. A model using the trained inmates needs to be developed.
- ✓ Finally, many inmates explained during the workshop that the problem actually starts before they reach the facilities. Many have spent anything between a few weeks to a few months, even over a year, in police holding cells prior to their sentencing. The programme should expand to holding cells in order to understand what happens there.

Advocacy is a long-term strategy. While it may appear that the project is moving slowly, it is important to remember that OYO's strategy is to ensure the Ministry remains a partner. Moves have to be planned carefully and seeds planted one at the time. Progress is being



made: the public is talking about the DVD 'Salute' (mostly thanks to the nominations it got in Amsterdam and for the AMVCA), public members who have seen the DVD are ready to speak in favour of the introducing condoms in correctional facilities, high ranking officials have seen the DVD – particularly those who were in Amsterdam and trainers have been trained in six facilities. It would therefore be important to build on those results. The request for a third and final phase of the 'In and Out' project was forwarded to OSISA for consideration and was approved in December 2018.

## **9. Growing strong in the Karas region project**

OYO entered various agreements with Stichting Horizon to a three-year plan in the Karas region.

- ✓ The first year (2015) focused on training the Keetmanshop youth group and touring the OYO Dance Troupe there. The theme selected was gender-based violence.
- ✓ The second year (2016) focused on advanced training for the Keetmanshop youth group, expanding the project to the Koes youth group (with support from FNB foundation and Elma Philanthropies) and touring the OYO Dance Troupe there. The selected theme was teenage pregnancy.
- ✓ The third year (2017) was to focus on advanced training for the Koes youth group, expanding the project to the Bethanie youth group (with support from FNB foundation and Elma Philanthropies) and touring the OYO Dance Troupe there. The theme selected was stigma and discrimination.

Working with young people, both out-of-school and in school, is at the same time entirely sustainable but impossible to sustain

It is entirely sustainable because:

- ✓ The knowledge and experience gained by the young people we work with in youth groups will stay with them forever. In particular, working towards touring them amongst schools promotes their self-esteem and sense of self-worth. Working in the arts can also help them to better present themselves during job interviews. Teamwork also helps them learn to trust others.
- ✓ Images are powerful tools. Students at schools who attend the performances from the OYO Dance Troupe and youth groups will remember those performances. One day, when dealing with a specific situation, they may recall the performance and it may help them take the right decision.

It is at the same time not sustainable because:

- ✓ Young people come and go. They do not stay in youth groups for long; either going back for studies, try to find a job or decide to start a family. It is difficult for those remaining to train the new members, as they are not trainers.
- ✓ Students in schools change every year. Grade 12 leave at the end of the year while Grade 8 arrive at the beginning of the year. The new students have not benefited from the activities and have therefore not learnt from it.

To tackle those issues, OYO is trying to develop long-term plans in the region. Those aim at:

- ✓ Ensuring there are activities in schools every year, to make sure new students benefit and learn, while older students keep getting new knowledge.
- ✓ Trying to motivate youth groups to become more sustainable and continue meeting after OYO has left.

The idea for 2018 was as follows:

With three groups in the Karas region, OYO would dedicate this year to strengthening them. It will continue supporting the Dream Team and the Koes and the Bethanie youth groups. **It will organize in September the first Karas Youth Performing Arts Festival**, bringing together the three groups for a four-days workshop to share and learn from one another while preparing a master piece with over 50 youth. Discussion about sustainability and way forwards for the groups will be undertaken. Stakeholders from the region will be invited to interact with the youth. Media will also be invited. **Three tours** will be organized in schools in the region if funding allows (one per group). If funding allows, the combined performance during the festival will also be toured to all or some of the schools. Topic to be agreed upon.

### 9.1. Planning

In 2017, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture's decision to change the theme that had been agreed upon challenged OYO. This was very important because year, OYO had decided to spend more time with the ministry, discuss their priorities and what they wanted OYO to achieve with both the groups and learners. The MEAC identified the following two as major problems they face in the region:

- ✓ Learners missing schools drink at shebeens (local bars)
- ✓ Learners lacking respect towards their teachers, in particular when drunk or experiencing a hangover

Since alcohol abuse is a major problem among unemployed and out-of-school youth in the region, it was agreed to work on those topics. It was initially suggested to spread the three group tours through February, April and June. However, the MoEAC again changed its decision early in the year and requested for the tours to be in February, June and July.

### 9.2. Youth workshops – Koes youth group

The Koes Youth Group, also known as Kalahari Koes youth group, had received training from OYO in 2016 and 2017. This year, three one-week workshops were then organised. They started around the end of January.

Workshop	Average attendance	Achieved
29 January – 02 February 18	Between 10 and 14 participants per day	A meeting with the Village Council took place right after arrival. The group falls under the Council and the Council was unhappy with former members because they were drinking and fighting in the street. They thus wanted to have mostly new members, who were reluctant to accept former members back in the group. The week was therefore used to mediate between the youth, try and build one solid group and start working on drama, songs and dances. The group received training on HIV transmission and prevention during the week, created two songs and started with three dances and the creation of a drama.
19 – 23 February 18	Between 13 and 18 participants per day	The Village Council was mostly absent during the week, which put the group a bit down. New people had joined the group, so some time had to be spent teaching them existing material, while continuing with the training on HIV testing and treatment. They continued creating songs and dances, and finalised the drama script.



26 February-03 March 18	Between 15 and 18 participants per day	The beginning of the week was challenging because girls in the group were very shy. Mid-week, the youth facilitator decided to shorten the drama and remove some of the sections with girls, focusing instead on the men characters. On Wednesday, the youth playing the narrator also decided to quit - personal reasons - so another youth had to take over. Despite the changes, the group was motivated to go on tour and worked hard. This meant they were ready by the end of the week and the show was tested on Saturday. Two guests were present to assess the story in terms of being clear and relevant.
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*(members rehearsing)*

With tensions between old and new members, the group was challenging. Also contributing to the tension was the Town Council that was involved ruining the beginning of the week but much less as the days went by. This was highly demotivating as it would be difficult for the group to sustain itself without the Council support.

The story of their performance focuses on two brothers, whose mother sent them to school. There, they made new friends who pressurised them to join a local gang. One of them gave in and joins the gang, which resulted in irresponsible behaviours of drinking and consuming illegal substances like marijuana. He then is arrested while in possession of the illegal substance and ends up in jail. His brother doesn't give in to the peer pressure, is serious with his school and ends up becoming a lawyer.



*(Rehearsing the drama)*

The show was ready on time and the group could go on tour.

### 9.3. The Koes youth group tour

The tour took place from 05 to 09 March. Twelve schools were selected to be part of the program by the MoEAC. The following results were obtained:

School	learners		Teachers		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Total
Tsau//Khaeb SS	192	163	14	5	374
Noordoewer JSS	80	68	1	2	151
E. Jagger CS	360	350	1	2	713
Lordsville JSS	105	110	4	5	224
Karasburg CS	160	82	6	0	248
Oosterheim CS	228	218	24	8	478
Suiderlig SSS	93	91	0	2	186
Adam Steve CS	230	232	13	12	487
J.S Nel SS	109	70	2	1	182
Keetmanshop JSS	110	80	6	1	197
Schmelenville CS	85	60	2	2	149
P.K. de Villiers SS	55	60	0	1	116
	<b>1807</b>	<b>1584</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>3505</b>

**In total 3,505 people saw the piece**, of which 3,391 were learners and young people.



(Performing in Keetmanshop)

The programme manager had attended the last two days of rehearsals to push the group and it paid off in the end. Some of the youth were a bit nervous for the first show that was held at Tsau Khaeb SS. This was however temporary and the group got better as the week went by.

Learners responded strongly to the show and were engaged by shouting at advice to characters or laughing during the show. It was a learning curve for the youth involved to remain in character when the story was clearly resonating among the audience.

Some of the challenges experienced:

- ✓ Lordville JSS normally has many more learners but some were writing a test that day, which meant that not all could attend the show.
- ✓ In Bethanie, the show was originally scheduled for Friday afternoon with Schmellenville Secondary School but the principal was afraid learners would not wait for the show and re-organised for OYO to perform for the primary school. It turned out to be a great event and learners from the primary school enjoyed the opportunity.

In some places, adults commanded the group for a clear message. At Ernst Jagger CS in Karasburg, the matrons present were very happy about the show as they feel many learners lack respect towards them and the show was clearly addressing that issue. A sister attended the show at Oosterheim CS and enjoyed the performance very much. The teacher in charge of the programme at Suiderlig SS complimented the team.

Adam Steve JSS is in Koes. The youth took this chance to invite their family and friends to attend the performance and it turned into a proud moment for them. Community members were happy to see young people from the community involved in something positive. The teacher present was also happy but mentioned that the Village Council does not support the youth enough and once OYO is not present, no activities take place. He asked if there would be opportunities for OYO to be present more regularly. This is indeed a problem, as OYO does not have the funding to spend longer periods of time in the community.



(Taking part in the facilitated discussion with Ivan 'Fly' Mueze)

Comments from the schools include:

- ✓ “Educative, informative and learners like the way the message is put across” – Ms L. Dausab, Life Skills teacher, Keetmanshop JSS
- ✓ “It was informative. It focused on peer pressure and the results that come along with it” – Ms M. Hashipala, Life Skills teacher, Lordsville JSS
- ✓ “Educational as learners are able to learn the message that was put across.” - L.S. Nanyemba, Principal, Tsau//Khaeb SS



(Watching the show at P.K de Villiers SS)

#### **9.4. Youth workshops – Bethanie youth group**

The Bethanie Youth Group had received training from OYO for the first time in 2017. There had been some problems last year – including with community leaders. This year, it was



decided to try and change facilitator. Njandee Mbarandongo, who is also a trained counsellor, was appointed to work with the group. Three one-week workshops were then organised in June.

<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Average attendance</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
04 – 09 June 18	Between 3 and 14 participants per day	The first day was challenging, as only three members were present. Njandee and the youth visited homesteads for conversations with parents and young people. The Village Council got more involved on the second day to recruit more youth and eight youth attended the session. Attendance was better from day three but not constant. Nine young people were committed and agreed on the basis for the show.
11 – 16 June 17	Between 11 and 16 participants per day	The number of youth increased a little in the second week and stabilised at 16 in the end. The group then started to work more, members were committed and enjoyed rehearsals. Training on HIV and alcohol and drug abuse was also delivered.
18-23 June 17	Between 15 and 17 participants per day	The last week was used to polish the show. The group was then extremely motivated and decided to start a campaign in the village to educate other youth. With the help of the police, they created a Youth Against Crime club and visited seven local bars to educate owners and customers on the Liquor Act of 1998. The Village Council supported the group by printing Tshirts for members and on the last day, the group took part in a volleyball competition organised by the council. The production manager was present during the week and helped polish the performance.



(Rehearsing the drama)

Bethanie is a small village but alcohol abuse is a big issue there. Most youth are unemployed and there are very little prospects for young people staying in the community. As a result, most young people just spend time at the shebeens.





(Playing drama games)

The story follows school learners buying alcohol and covers what the law says about learners buying alcohol. The learners were sent by older family members to buy the alcohol. The bar owner does not mind selling alcohol to the learners as they are some of his regular customers. The story also delves into drug abuse as learners are depicted as comfortable to smoke marijuana on school ground.

#### 9.4. The Bethanie youth group tour

The tour took place from 24 to 29 June. The Bethanie Youth Group, to reinforce the message, then visited the same schools a second time. Additionally, a performance was organised for the Bethanie community, to promote the work done by the local youth. The following results were obtained:

School	learners		Teachers		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Total
Suiderlig SSS	90	85	0	2	177
P.K. de Villiers SS	84	48	1	1	134
Tsau//Khaeb SS	191	164	16	4	375
Noordoewer JSS	69	59	2	3	133
E. Jagger CS	192	340	6	7	545
Lordsville JSS	98	80	7	6	191
Karasburg CS	110	25	1	0	136
Oosterheim CS	270	265	19	9	563
Adam Steve CS	95	62	5	4	166
Schmelenville CS	222	197	14	8	441
J.S Nel SS	72	64	1	1	138
Bethanie community	50	30	16	11	107
Keetmanshop JSS	75	31	2	1	109
	<b>1444</b>	<b>1317</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>2904</b>

**In total 2,904 people saw the piece**, of which 2,761 were learners and young people.



(Performing the drama)

The first show (Suiderlig Secondary School) was difficult to organise, as there was a soccer game at the same time. Most male learners could thus not attend. Nonetheless, the show could proceed. As always with youth groups, the first show was stressful for performers but they got more comfortable as days went by. At J.A. Nel SS, a soccer tournament was also happening at the same time, so not all learners could attend the performance.

There were also some challenges:

- ✓ At Karasburg JSS, one learner misbehaved during the facilitation and created a bit of a commotion. Only one teacher was present and did not manage well so the production manager got the learner to come to the front and after the facilitation ended he was asked to apologise to other learners and give a positive message to them.
- ✓ At Oosterheim JSS the inspector for education was present and didn't want his session to be interrupted so the show had to start late, which delayed arrival to the following school. The other school was reluctant to wait longer so another school stepped in and the whole programme was changed. However, it did not affect the overall targets and all schools in the end could be reached.
- ✓ At Keetmanshop JSS, not much effort was put in by the school to encourage learners to stay so the audience was smaller than expected.

In most schools, learners contributed well to the facilitation after the performance. The drama was funny and kept the audience attentive. At Tsau//Khaeb, teachers reinforced the message that alcohol is a problem for learners and coming to school drunk is not acceptable. The matron at Lordsville Combined School was touched by the performance and delivered a strong message to learners after the show. The counsellor was kept busy at most schools because many learners wanted to share their problems and obtain guidance. At Ernst Jagger, the Life Skills teacher had even organised learners who needed to attend counselling sessions and at Adam Steve Combined School, few members from the Koes Youth Group came to attend, which meant there was an opportunity for the two groups to meet and interact a little.

The Bethanie Youth Group had a chance to perform for their community during a special show. The audience included parents and primary school learners. Youth part of the programme enjoyed performing for their community.



*(Presenting one of the songs)*

Comments from the schools include:

- ✓ “It teaches children and elders about the dangers of drug abuse and educates the nation about the dangers of being irresponsible” – Mr J. Ndaendennawye, teacher, P.K. De Villiers SS
- ✓ “We had the same incident where two of our Grade 8 learners smoked marijuana during school hours. I hope and believe they got the message loud and clear.” – Mrs Hashipala, Life Skills teacher, Lordsville JSS
- ✓ “What the group presented is reality” – Raynold, Life Skills teacher, Oosterheim CS



*(Attending the show on a cold winter day)*

### **9.5. Youth workshops – Dream Team**



The Keetmanshoop Youth Group, also known as Dream Team, had received training from OYO since 2014. This year, three one-week workshops were then organised. They took place in July.

<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Average attendance</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
02 – 06 July 18	Between 14 and 15 participants per day	The Dream Team were not at their best because their main supporters at the youth centre (Annelien and Zelda) had been away at the end of 2017 and early 2018. It was therefore mostly a new group comprising predominantly of girls. They were dedicated and fast learners. At first, it was challenging for songs and dramas to have a group with few boys but they managed to devise the concept of a drama, dance and song.
09 – 13 July 18	Between 13 and 21 participants per day	An intern from the Netherlands, Louisa, joined the team this week. She helped a lot with stagecraft and drama technique. Eight people joined on the Thursday, which was challenging and even though a few boys had joined the group, it comprised of mostly girls and meant that the songs would not work. The songs were then cut out of the show that then was mostly of drama and dance. The show was mostly finalised by the end of the week and just needed a little last minute polish to be perfect. The head of the centre was happy with the progress made.
16-20 June 18	Between 18 and 20 participants per day	The group worked mostly on dances in the mornings and drama in the afternoons of the last week. An education inspector was present to see a run through of the show and was very happy, concluding the group was ready to tour and the message was clear and relevant to schools.

Despite the group not being very new but having many new members, they learnt fast and made active progress during the week.



(Trying songs)

This group is privileged as it receives the direct support from the Keetmanshoop Multi-Purpose Youth Centre.



(With intern Louisa)

The show focused on a teacher who goes to a shebeen and drinks with learners. Later, he wonders why learners are not respecting him at school. One concerned community member approaches the education inspector but is told that proof is needed. One learner also reports the situation to the principal but is ignored because he has no proof. The learner then decides to find proof and makes a case against the teacher. The teacher is eventually retrenched and learners learn about respect and proper behaviour on school ground.

### **9.6. The Dream Team youth group tour**

The tour took place from 22 to 26 July and the same schools were invited a third time. That dates unfortunately meant that the tour was clashing with exams – YOY had warned the ministry about it and proposed the tours be conducted in February or April but the authorities insisted on February, June and or July. OYO was also informed a week before the tour that schools will be obliged to participate. Two schools, Noordoewer JSS and Keetmanshoop JSS, refused to participate. The other ten schools could be visited and the following results were obtained:

School	learners		Teachers		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Suiderlig SSS	140	50	0	0	190
P.K. de Villiers SS	70	58	0	3	131
Tsau//Khaeb SS	184	166	6	2	358
E. Jagger CS	246	256	4	6	512
Lordsville JSS	150	180	9	5	344
Karasburg CS	120	50	1	0	171
Oosterheim CS	242	219	23	8	492
Adam Steve CS	48	62	4	2	116



Schmelenville CS	197	190	14	6	407
J.S Nel SS	120	72	1	2	195
	<b>1307</b>	<b>1195</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2595</b>

**In total 2,595 people saw the piece**, of which 2,502 were learners and young people.



*(Getting ready for the performance)*

As always, the first show (Suiderlig SS) was a bit difficult but overall, the team was confident. Louisa, the intern from OYO, joined the tour and performed the dances with the group.

Some of the challenges experienced:

- ✓ Suiderlig SS: no teacher or hostel supervisor were present. The head-boy was however very helpful, as he wanted to see the performance and organised for learners to gather.
- ✓ At P.K de Villiers: the supervisor for the girls' hostel didn't want to release them because they had to study, so the team had to enter a long negotiation until finally all learners could attend the event.
- ✓ Tsau//Khaeb: the youth got carried away and lengthened the drama by trying to show off and add lines. It didn't work well but rather confused the audience that also got bored. As a result, the facilitation was poorly attended.



*(Performing with Louisa)*

The show at Ernst Jagger CS was the first good show of the tour. The supervising teacher from Karasburg JSS was very happy with the performance and facilitation, and encouraged learners to study hard for the upcoming exams. The head of department at Schmelenville Combined School was very welcoming. Also, the Bethanie youth group members were present and had a chance to interact with the Dream Team after the performance, which was exciting. Finally, staff at J.A. Nel SS welcomed the initiative and agreed that teachers also have their part to play by adhering to the code of conduct and setting an example. The youth enjoyed performing with Louisa.



*(Fly facilitating the show)*

Feedback from the schools include:

- ✓ “The message is totally clear and well delivered.” – J. Vries, headboy, Suiderlig SS
- ✓ “It was the third time that the OYO group visited the school and the information was once again received brilliantly. The learners responded well to the questions and we hope that they will visit us again in the future.” – Mr W. Nambadi, teacher, J.A Nel SS
- ✓ “It is very educative and informative. The issues projected in the dramas are relevant to the learners school and community environment.” – Desiree, teacher, Karasburg CS

### **9.7. Organisation of the festival**

The exciting part of the 2018 project was to organise a youth festival whereby the three groups would be able to meet, discuss and share experiences. This turned out to be very expensive because two groups would have to travel and all three would need accommodation.

A proposal with budget was submitted to the FNB Foundation that had supported activities in the Karas region over previous years. Despite the optimism, the foundation declined the proposal at the end of April because it had changed priorities and could not longer support the activity under its current budget.

A call for proposals from the French Consulate in Johannesburg, South Africa was opened in June and OYO decided to submit the idea of the festival. First discussions were positive but the envisioned dates in September would not be feasible, as proposals would have to be sent to Paris as well and no decisions would be taken before October or November. Starting the project in early 2019 appeared as the best option and it was agreed that although this would be later than the initial plan, it would still be worth submission. OYO is still waiting for an answer. Parallel to that, OYO approached the Office of the First Lady in Namibia, who has expressed interest in working with the young people of the Karas Region. Unfortunately, no money was available and OYO was advised to approach again by the end of the year. The festival could therefore not be organized for this year.

### **9.8. Conclusion**

The work done with young people is more important than ever. The Karas Region is neglected by lack of development and alcohol abuse is a huge issue that worsens by the day; something all three groups agreed to, saying it is linked to a lack of employment opportunities in the region. More work is needed to address this social ill.

The three series of workshops were successful and schools welcome the tours. It is sad that the festival could not be held due to a lack of funding, as all youth were excited about the idea. The costly idea is thus under question; should the large amount of money rather be spent on more workshops and tours? Arguments in favour of the festival evolve around networking, sharing ideas and understanding that the youth, regardless of location and not living in isolation, very often face the same problems. This highlights the importance of them working together towards addressing the problems collectively. Stichting Horizon agreed in December to support the project for one more year in 2019.

## **10. Projects around the World AIDS Day**

### **10.1. Reaching Informal settlements in Windhoek**

- ✓ In 2017, one of OYO's Global Fund packages dealt with HIV and young people. In particular, OYO was asked to create two dance pieces looking at issues around treatment adherence:
- ✓ 'To take or not to take' followed two men on ARV: one being serious with his treatment and the other not.
- ✓ 'What is love?' looked at the difficulty some school learners have in taking their treatment regularly when they stay in school hostels.
- ✓ Those pieces have been very successful and OYO was asked to present 'To take or not to take' at the NAMPHIA launch, where during the presentation, it was made

clear that informal settlements are an area of concern because they grow exponentially and house a large amount of vulnerable people.

OYO in 2017 embarked on a campaign in Windhoek's informal settlements, with support from UNAIDS. The following was achieved:

- ✓ OYO supported the creation of the Windhoek Youth Group from one of the settlements, providing them with training on HIV and SRH issues, and helping them create a performance that is relevant to people in the area.
- ✓ OYO reached people in six areas with three interventions: the OYO Dance Troupe reached 1,370 people; DVD 'Panado girl' reached 1,512 people; and the youth group reached 1,561 people.

During early 2018, OYO followed up with the 17 youth who had taken part in the programme and found out that 10 were still very active, some returned to study, two had found work and two have relocated to other areas. In November and in order to build up towards World AIDS Day, OYO proposed to reinforce results obtained in 2017 by reconvening the youth group and focusing on treatment adherence and issues around HIV; and including alcohol abuse, which is a big issue in most informal settlements. The campaign this year had two components: the dance troupe and the youth group. It is the object of this report.

Results achieved:

Target	Achieved
<b>Expected result 1:</b> 5 dancers and 5 dance trainees have rehearsed OYO's performance on HIV and young people	<b>Achieved</b> – 5 dancers and 5 dance trainees have rehearsed OYO's performance on HIV and young people
<b>Expected result 2:</b> 1,000 young people in Windhoek's informal settlement have seen the performances and learnt from it.	<b>Exceeded:</b> 2,061 people saw the OYO dance troupe and 2,178 saw the youth group performances and have learnt from it.
<b>Expected result 3:</b> 14 unemployed young people in Windhoek's informal settlement have taken part in OYO's workshop and have become agent of change in their community	<b>Exceeded:</b> 20 unemployed young people in Windhoek's informal settlement have taken part in the OYO's workshop and become agent of change in their community.
Additional achievement	Thanks to partnership with NAPPA, 712 people got tested during the campaign. 6 new HIV positive people were diagnosed and 4 people got access to PrEP.

### 10.1.1.Preparation

As soon as the project was approved, the team approached the different constituencies and met with the local councillors and/or their teams. The proposed planning was agreed upon and most councillors have access to spots on NBC radio to promote the events. A promotion campaign was also organised on social media through the OYO Facebook page and OYO Instagram account.

In parallel and to add value to the campaign, even though it was not part of the targets, OYO reached out to partners:

- ✓ NAPPA agreed to shadow the team with a mobile clinic and provide free HIV testing during the events.



- ✓ The Legal Assistance Centre, NANASO and SFH provided OYO with pamphlets, leaflets and educational material to distribute during the events.
- ✓ The Ministry of Health and Social Services provided OYO with condoms, femidoms, pamphlets, leaflets and educational material to distribute during the events.

OYO also produced a T-shirt for the World AIDS Day to be worn by the youth group during their performance and to be a special prize for participants during the events.

Finally, the OYO Dance Troupe rehearsed their repertoires selected by themselves:

- ✓ 'Betrayed' - addressing the issue of the link between GBV and HIV
- ✓ 'To take or not to take' - addressing treatment adherence and PrEP
- ✓ 'Thiasus' - addressing the issue of alcohol abuse in Katutura

### **10.1.2. Presentation of Dance Troupe shows followed by facilitated discussions**

The six events were organised between 5 and 10 November from 4pm in the afternoon, over six days, to allow the team to reach people who worked or were in town during the day. Between 4 and 5 November, the group would set up and play music to attract people. The performance would start shortly after 5pm and the event would end around 7.30pm to accommodate the darkness after sunset.

Venue	Children		Youth		Adults		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Havana Soccer Field	31	30	73	59	49	30	272
Hakahana	75	59	60	64	32	29	319
Havana Shoprite	168	132	73	107	163	187	830
8 de Laan	29	30	54	35	20	14	182
7 de Laan	22	20	43	27	22	11	145
Ebandulo one nation	68	35	76	49	53	32	313
	<b>393</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>2061</b>

In total, 2,061 people saw the performance, of which 720 were young and 642 were adults.

After the performances, up to ten audience members were invited to fill in a questionnaire. This was to help OYO gather the needed information about the show itself and undertake some basic research on knowledge and attitude. A total of 56 people completed the questionnaire, of which 41 ranked the event as excellent, with another 11 ranking it as good. The piece that touched them the most was 'Thiasus' (48%) followed by 'To take or not to take' (30%). As always, it is important to offer a range of performances, as not everybody reacts the same to the different pieces.





*(Performing in Havana)*

Some venues were difficult for the dancers, such as Hakahana that was very rough with lots of stones and 8 de Laan that quite frankly, had an unhygienic stench. In Hakahana, the youth participated very well in the facilitation, as fewer adults were around. They insisted on the fact that alcohol abuse is a leading problem in their settlement and is affecting their lives as young people. At Havana Soccer Field, the young boys who normally play in the area were excited to see the group and even though they couldn't play soccer that evening, they participated well. The boys explained that often time, they are neglected and enjoy seeing the OYO team on their field.



*(Facilitated discussion)*



*(Display table)*

The new informal settlement, 7 de Laan and suggested by the Councillor, was a bit of a disappointment. It was an open area with lots of people passing through but very few adults participated. Mostly children attended and possibly because of the new faces in their area.

NAPPA clinic could follow the team from Monday to Friday. They only missed the event on Saturday (Ebandulo One Nation). They tested 254 people and found 4 new positive. Condom distribution was a huge success, with people really wanting to access condoms and femidom. Demonstrations were organised.

OYO took this chance to also organise focus group discussions with teenagers and assess what services are available to them. Many did not know about the existence of teen clubs for those living with HIV, so it was a great platform to inform them about the clubs and encourage them to let teenagers know about those support services.

### **10.1.3. Youth workshops**

The workshops took place over three weeks, from 30 November to 19 November. OYO would like to thank the Katutura Multi-Purpose Youth Centre for their support. The youth could rehearse at the centre for most days (except on 07 and 08 November when they rehearsed at the Khomasdal Community Hall).

During the preparation of the proposal, OYO had gathered 10 youth who were part of the programme and had therefore estimated attendance to be around 14 youth per day. The budget (catering and daily taxi fees) was therefore calculated on the assumption of an average of 14 youth. However, at the time of registration, many more youth joined and the daily headcount had varied between 15 and 23 youth at the centre. Twenty youth qualified in the end and this forced OYO to revise its strategy. Instead of contracting a caterer and in an attempt save funds, OYO bought food and contracted a young lady to do the cooking. It put pressure on the team but allowed OYO to accommodate more youth in the workshop.



*(Devising the drama using role play techniques)*

The first week was mostly used for participants to familiarise themselves with each other – new and old members – agree on the topic, and start devising songs and dramas. The group originally comprised mainly of girls – only three boys came in the beginning, which was challenging for both the songs and drama. One former OYO dancer, Anderson Tsowoseb, agreed to join and support the group, after which two other young men joined the group too.

The second week was used to devise the performance, create songs and dances and finalise the drama. The casting was done and actors started to learn their lines. Training was done on HIV and the youth also got the opportunity to share their knowledge with one another. Of interest was the story told by few youth that a new fashion in Windhoek informal settlements is to ask your partner for a test. However, you don't do the test together but – if

you are positive – you ask a zero-negative friend to give you their test result and show the negative test result to your partner. This is a worrying trend and it was then decided to integrate it as part of the drama.



(Working on one of the dances)

The last week was used to polish the performance and ensure the show was strong. The youth chose to be inspired by the story of a couple they personally knew of. This made their work more relevant. The show tells the story of a girl who was born with HIV but does not receive any support at home because her mother is more concerned of blaming her father for the infection. When she meets a boy and falls in love, the girl does not tell the truth. The boy, discovering that she is a virgin, then decides not to use condoms but when he discovered that she HIV positive, he confronts her, get very angry and kills the girl.

The performance was ready by the end of the week.

#### **10.1.4. Presentation of the youth group shows followed by facilitated discussions**

The six events were organised between 19 and 22 November. Originally, the idea was to accommodate the youth at the Katutura Youth Centre but that was unfortunately not possible because the centre was fully booked by teachers marking exams. In order to save cost, the shows were divided in six days: four shows started from 4pm in the afternoon, with two shows starting at 11h00. Also, it was decided to get another venue, since 7 de Laan was not satisfactory. On community advice, a large opened area in Goreangab was selected.

Venue	Children		Youth		Adults		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Hakahana	41	21	49	30	13	10	164
8 de Laan	30	21	40	45	24	15	175
Goreangab	57	43	193	183	59	43	578
Havana Shoprite	68	33	98	80	60	29	368
Epandulo one nation	91	51	111	90	67	26	436
Havana soccer field	72	55	120	113	60	37	457
	<b>359</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>2178</b>



A total of 2,178 people saw the performance, of which 1,152 were young and 443 adults. The new venue proved to be a very good choice and reached 578 people.



*(reaching out to children and the youth)*

New tricks were tried and as with most places the second show was better than the first. In order to win a WAD T-shirt, male participants had to properly demonstrate how to use the female condom while the female respondents had to demonstrate how to use the male condom. This was very good because it engaged the community in the facilitation and encouraged communication because only men were allowed to assist men and the same applied to women.



*(Organising condom demonstrations in the community)*

In areas where the majority of audience was Oshiwambo speaking, the youth translated the drama and mixed it with Afrikaans for the actors who couldn't speak Oshiwambo. This helped with understanding of the drama for the less fluent members of the community. In those areas, one of the youth also assisted the facilitator – the facilitator would speak in English and the youth would translate it into Oshiwambo. This helped to ensure the facilitation went smoothly.



People at Epandulo One Nation were eager to receive the team but unfortunately, NAPPA could not join because it was on a Saturday. A demand was there but couldn't be met. The clinic could join and people were eager to get tested.

In total, NAPPA tested 458 people, found 2 new HIV positive and could also put 4 people on PrEP.

On the last day, the youth received their certificates and a token of appreciation for their hard work. They were very excited and thankful.



*(Performing with guest Anderson Tsowoseb)*

#### **10.1.5. Monitoring and evaluation**

A questionnaire was distributed to the audience during both the dance troupe and youth group tours, resulting in 56 people with the dance troupe and 59 with the youth group completing it. The questionnaire was used to ensure the shows were relevant and people understood the issue presented to them. Some questions were for research purpose and others to assess what people in those areas knew, felt or believed in.

Some of the results were interesting and others were challenging. A one pager was put together with the most interesting results. The one-pager was put on OYO's Facebook page for World AIDS Day.

Finally, with the clips and pictures taken during the performances, a short video programme was also produced to reinforce findings from the one-pager. The short video was also uploaded on OYO's Facebook page.

#### **10.1.6. Challenges**

The main challenge faced was the absence of timely disbursement from UNAIDS. When entering discussion with UNAIDS, OYO understood that the project and report had to be finished by 15 December. Signing the contract took longer than anticipated and only happened end October. As per the contract, disbursement would be 50% - 30% and 20% but by the end of the last performance on 22 November, OYO had received no payment. OYO then had to undertake all the activities at its own cost and wait to pay people for their services.

Another challenge is linked to HIV testing. The overall new approach in Namibia is to go for yield versus the testing of people who want to check their status.

Some project managers might argue that testing 712 people to find 6 positive is not cost effective. However, OYO feels this approach undermines the wish by many people who are zero-negative and may think they know it, undergo the test to confirm their negative status. It is important for many people who are sexually active and may have more than one partner to know that they are still zero-negative. Yet, at times it is difficult to secure the support from mobile clinics, as they are not considered as the priority anymore (index testing being the new trend). OYO was surprised to hear that despite the fact that the Khomas Region is a DREAM project, those areas had not received the service from the mobile clinic. OYO is therefore thankful for its partnership with NAPPA, as it felt that providing on the spot testing to over 700 people was a huge added value to the project. NAPPA on the other hand also valued its collaboration with OYO, acknowledging that OYO has the ability to gather and keep people entertained for long enough so that testing is less of a challenge.

#### **10.1.7. Way forward**

OYO's involvement in Windhoek informal settlements has been punctual: one project in mid-2017 and this project around the end of 2018. It has proven that there is a need – both in terms of knowledge sharing and in terms of demand for HIV testing, condom demonstration and condom distribution. This project would benefit from a longer term planning.

On the last day, the Windhoek Youth Group was asked provide OYO with feedback. They said they appreciated the experience and as with last year, they said that it is difficult for them to meet regularly. They are from different areas in Windhoek informal settlement and transport is expensive. This means most members don't attend meetings.

However, they do feel it is important for the group to continue and they also feel that some areas need more work, such as:

- ✓ Stigma and discrimination at the homes of children living with HIV. They feel it is an area that has not been discussed enough in informal settlements that this results in teenagers not taking their treatment.
- ✓ Teenage pregnancy and transactional sex. They feel transactional sex is increasing in some parts of the informal settlements and that this should be addressed urgently.
- ✓ Alcohol and drug abuse remain of concern after it hit a peak in 2017 as a social affecting the youth directly through those who use them and indirectly through those living around regular users.

One finding of concern that surfaced through work with the youth and which community members confirmed, is that of requesting a partner's zero HIV status to stop using condoms. Partners living with HIV would then ask for the zero-negative statements of their friends and use that to trick their partners. When asked, 25% of the men and 31% of the women respondents confirmed this practice. In particular, 70% of respondents in Otjomuise 8 de Laan confirmed the practice, versus 10% to 30% of respondents in other areas. This is of high concern and needs attention as soon as possible.

#### **10.1.8. Conclusion**

The project was successful and exceeded the targets. Lessons learnt in 2017 could be integrated for better planning and reaching out to more people. The collaboration with NAPPA proved valuable.

Working with the Windhoek Youth Group was exciting, as they are vibrant and self-motivated. Since it was the second time for OYO to interact with them, more in-depth discussions could be held. It is however challenging for the group to continue on its own, as transport in Windhoek is expensive and the recent increase in taxi fares makes it even more difficult for members to attend activities. However, it is a group that is definitely worth supporting.



*(Performing in the heart of Katutura)*

Visiting areas more that once are important, as not everybody can be present on a given day and time. Repeated visits using different groups and mediums allow OYO to reach more people and, for those attending more than one event, to reinforce the messages effectively.

## 10.2. Addressing treatment adherence in the Kunene Region

OYO has been approached several times to send the Dance Troupe to stage and facilitate activities with communities on the issue of treatment adherence. The organisations therefore suggested a project with the overall aim to inform rural communities in the Kunene Region on issues around HIV, with a focus on treatment adherence.

Furthermore, the Kunene Region is one of the two regions in Namibia with no active teen clubs, which is why the organisation suggested assessing the situation on the ground and formulating a strategy for the establishment of teen clubs.

Results obtained:

Targets	Achieved
<b>Expected result 1:</b> 5 dancers and 5 dance trainees have conducted OYO's performance on HIV and young people	<b>Achieved:</b> 5 dancers, 4 trainees and one guest artist have conducted OYO's performance on HIV and young people.
<b>Expected result 2:</b> 2,500 people in the Kunene Region, of which 1,500 are under the age of 25, have seen the performance and learnt from it.	<b>Exceeded:</b> 3,503 people in Kunene, of which 2,458 are under the age of 25, have seen the performance and learnt from it. An additional 228 people, of which 133 are under the age of 25, attended the main World AIDS Day event on 01 <sup>st</sup> December
<b>Expected results 3:</b> At least one club per hospital has been created and/or met with and encouraged to plan activities for 2019.	<b>Partially achieved:</b> only the club in Queen Sofia and Khorixas were effective and could be met with. In other places, OYO encouraged

	the formation of teen clubs.
<b>Expected results 4:</b> at least 10 counsellors/nurse/social workers have been sensitised on the importance to create teen clubs and have committed to do so.	<b>Exceeded:</b> 31 nurses/ health workers took part in meetings and have been sensitised on the importance to create teen clubs

### 10.2.1. Preparation

One of the challenges, when working in the Kunene Region, is to acknowledge that Kunene South and Kunene North are very different. OYO therefore suggests to have a packaging for Kunene South (Outjo, Khorixas, Kamanjab) and Kunene North (Opuwo and Okangwati).

- ✓ Package for Kunene South: 'To take or not to take' (treatment adherence in communities), 'What is love?' (treatment adherence in schools) and 'Betrayed' (sexual abuse by family members and HIV).
- ✓ Package for Kunene North: 'To take or not to take' (treatment adherence in communities), 'What is love?' (treatment adherence in schools) and 'I have a choice' (child marriage and HIV – as it is practiced by Ovahimba communities)

The Dance Troupe therefore worked on the pieces to make them local to the Kunene communities. They also had the chance, prior to the tour, to work with artist Chantal dos Santos from Canada and created an additional piece 'Cheers to life'. Since it was relevant, the decision was taken for it to be added to the repertoire.



(Rehearsing with Chantal)



(Rehearsing 'to take or not to take')

Meanwhile, hospitals and clinics in the region were approached, as well as the Regional Council. It soon became clear the region had no plans for observation of the World AIDS Day. They welcomed the initiative and suggested it should become one of the main attractions of the regional observation. OYO was then tasked to organise the main event in Opuwo, while the original idea was rather to complement the observation organised by the regional council. OYO General Manager, Cecilia Petrus went to Opuwo for a meeting with RACOC on 19 November because organising the regional event on a short notice was challenging. Despite the challenges, OYO accepted the challenge and Ms Petrus was appointed as the event coordinator. The organisation then had to rethink its limited budget to accommodate this request but to all surprise, no major changes had to be made because some savings could be made with per diem and accommodation, and were re-directed to organisation of the main event. UNICEF appointed a representative to deliver a keynote address during the event, alongside the regional governor, his delegation and the mayor.



### 10.2.2. Dance Troupe Tour

The tour took place from 26 November to 05 December, with the team traveling back to Windhoek on 06 December. Besides the official event on 01 December (see report below), they organised 16 other performances.

Venue	Children		Youth		Adults		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Outjo - camp 5	43	32	98	87	91	73	424
Queen Sofia Primary School	110	89	5	3	23	8	238
Outjo CDC clinic	60	49	112	100	98	110	529
Khorixas community	43	32	95	83	44	37	334
Anker community	7	15	34	12	8	3	79
Kamanjab community	10	8	32	27	12	7	96
Otjokavare community	27	41	5	20	15	6	114
Okondaune (Opuwo)	53	49	67	41	36	29	275
Ohundungu community	10	6	2	6	4	12	40
Otuzemba community (Opuwo)	92	73	115	97	83	70	530
Okangwati community	8	7	38	44	22	30	149
Otjimuhata community	15	10	30	22	28	38	143
Warmquelle community	31	23	43	35	25	17	174
Sesfontein community	25	15	15	15	30	20	120
Bersig community	11	8	7	8	10	7	51
Khorixas Regional Council	45	26	56	31	23	26	207
	<b>590</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>3503</b>

In total, 3,503 people attended the events, of which 1,385 were youth and 1,045 were adults.



*Performing in Khorixas*



*Reaching men in Okangwati*

One of the women dancers was injured on the second day. This disturbed the second show, in Outjo, and one of the pieces, "To take or not to take" could not be performed.

The event in Kamanjab was officially opened by the local youth group, who performed two songs and were followed by a local hip-hop artist, who energised the audience.

In Okangwati, the issue of child marriage grabbed a lot of attention and elders took the microphone to say the practice is not safe and if people have to marry their children, they should at least make sure that both partners are tested before agreeing to the marriage.

The constituency office in Sesfontein had decided to join OYO for the performance to make it a larger event. The cooperation between the organisation and the local authority was well received by the community.

Each piece was followed by a facilitated discussion to ensure audiences understood the situation presented to them and had learnt from it. During the events, audience members were also invited to answer simple questionnaires for OYO to gain an understanding of the situation on the ground. Condom and femidom educational material were distributed to complement the demonstrations of how to use the contraceptives. OYO would like to thank the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) that donated educational material in the local languages of the region. Additional educational materials were obtained from SFH, NANASO and the Ministry of Health and Social Services. OYO's youth-friendly magazine, 'OYO, young, latest and cool', was also distributed.



*(Community participation)*



*(condom demonstration)*

The information distributed was very helpful and in Queen Sofia Settlement, the young nurse part of the project came to thank the OYO team. She noted and expressed appreciation of the pamphlets dealing with rape. In particular, she informed OYO of an incident that occurred one day before the show in which a boy raped another. She thanked OYO for the information and noted how she can share it further.

The condom demonstration in Warmquelle escalated and women made it clear that if they carry condoms it doesn't mean they are cheating. Men disagreed and were of the opinion that women should not carry condoms unless they are cheating – their argument was that if women don't cheat then they don't need to carry condoms for their husbands.

A World AIDS Day T-shirt had been produced for the tour and was distributed as a special gift to community members who could perform condom demonstrations. The T-shirt was always highly appreciated and most winners were displayed on OYO's Facebook page on 12 December.

Evenings were often very windy, which limited the screening of DVDs, but to add value to the events, the organisation screened 'Panado girl' in four places. This DVD deals with school learners living with HIV and staying in the school hostel – an environment that makes it difficult for them to take their treatment systematically. This DVD allowed the team to have further discussions on the issue of confidentiality and discrimination.



*(DVD show in Outjo)*

Venue	Children		Youth		Adults		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Outjo - Soweto	57	45	111	86	96	37	432
Kamanjab community	10	8	32	27	12	7	96
Katutura (Opuwo)	13	16	9	5	12	7	62
Otuzemba community (Opuwo)	92	73	115	97	83	70	530
	<b>172</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>1120</b>

A further 1,120 people could attend screenings of the DVD and learn from it.

### **10.2.3. Teen clubs – meetings with health facilities in the region**

Research prior to the tour informed OYO of two existing teen clubs with the Outjo and Khorixas Hospitals, and one youth club at Queen Sofia Settlement. The teen clubs in Outjo turned out to be non-existent and meetings were held at different health facilities to understand the situation. Besides the two mini workshops, nine meetings took place and each meeting included comprehensive minutes. It surfaced during those meetings that the needs of larger (hospitals), medium (other health facilities) and small (clinics) structures are different. While there are teenagers living with the virus in the region, very little is done to attend to their needs.





(Meeting with Health Workers in Otjokavare)

**Queen Sofia Settlement** (27/11/2018): They have a club at the school but it's not a teen club: it's a group of learners that meet on Saturdays to discuss different life challenges. The Life Skills teacher guides the group and gives them different lessons. He also gets the group involved in different sports activities at the school. The nurse joined us for the discussion on the teen club and said they will also focus on HIV. The nurse aims to work with teens living with HIV and guide them towards a positive and responsible mentality. The principal spoke positively of the initiative, saying the teen club could assist other teens living with the virus but whose parents refuse them treatment. They said teens in the settlement live in isolation and need the exposure through such exchange programmes to prepare them for when they move to urban areas in which they tend to be naïve and not ready for the challenges of adult life.

Learners part of the club participated in a mini-workshop with OYO dancers and showed signs of enjoying the fun and movement.



(Meeting with the teens in Queen Sofia)

**Khorixas District Hospital** (28/11/2018): two OYO staff and one adult attended the meeting with three hospital staff. The nurse confirmed that a teen club exists with twelve registered members living with HIV, aged 12 to 19. The group meets on Wednesday and Friday afternoons but lack activities; they would appreciate informative material and DVDs.

OYO could meet with eight of the club members: four boys and four girls aged 12 to 16. Four parents and the nurse were present as well. The teens present felt that teen clubs

should be open only to teenagers living with HIV. They felt teen clubs would allow teenagers to build characters, be educated them and encourage them on how to play safely with other children, so that other children don't come into contact with their bloods. They complained that currently the club doesn't provide any activities. For example, the nurse only gives them homework, such as 'identify five things you know about HIV'. They said it is not very exciting and that's why some members don't attend the meetings. They want more fun activities such as dancing, dramas, games, role-plays, talent shows and performances for other youth. The members also said refreshments should be available. In the end, the clinic led the club and OYO assisted them with activities. The club also met OYO dancers and they enjoyed the experience of learning new moves. They were also present for the community show.

#### 10.2.4. Teen clubs – meeting with teenagers

OYO used to do a lot of work with youth groups in the Kunene Region and not with teen clubs. Youth groups were for young people who are not in school, are unemployed and were not undergoing any training. They used to be between the age of 16 to 25 and such groups existed in Outjo, Khorixas, Kamanjab, Anker and Opuwo. OYO stopped with such activities in 2016, due to lack of funding because no partner – not even during the time of the Global Fund – identified the Kunene as a priority area.

Young people that this year came to all OYO performances in the region said they were hoping to register for a youth group and expressed the need for them to be formed again. The Constituency office in Khorixas expressed this best during their event:

*“We are concerned about the well-being of our youth as there is nothing happening for them here and we want OYO to come back to Kunene. Most of the youth that were part of OYO are now in different towns working and some went to study so OYO programmes were instrumental to shift their mind-sets and boost their self-esteem. We can see a difference between the OYO youth and the youth of today.”*

A total of nine meetings were organised and it was important for OYO to get the opinion of the teenagers too – not just the health workers.

Place	Participants		Total
	Female	Male	
Queen Sofia settlement	16	6	22
Outjo	13	2	15
Otjokavare	6	10	16
Opuwo	9	0	9
Okangwati	13	8	21
Sesfontein	17	2	19
Ohandungu	9	1	10
Anker	20	3	23
	<b>103</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>135</b>

A total of 135 teens aged 12 to 19 took part in the discussion and the groups were predominantly women - 75% of the participants were women, which might have the results be a little biased. Respondents' HIV statuses are unknown but it can be assumed that majority is not living with the virus. It was voluntary for children to participate.

Participants at all events said the clubs should be open to all teenagers, partially to address the stigma and discrimination, and also to educate more of Namibia's youth. Suggested activities include dancing (7), reading (2), drama (7), sport events (6) - in particular soccer and netball - singing (5), receiving training on life skills issues (3), games (2), writing, creating stories, drumming, sharing ideas and entertainment such as DVDs.

Food was mentioned a few times as an incentive to encourage regular meeting attendance. Touring and traveling were also mentioned in Sesfontein as a motivational factor for participants to work towards a goal. Most participants at all venues felt the clinics could support the clubs (3) or Like Skills teachers (4). Most mentioned OYO as a potential partner. In Otjokavare and Ohandungu however, participants said the clinic will not support them and only an organisation such as OYO could help. In Outjo, teens were not entirely certain who would be a good person to lead the clubs.

Not all teenagers are interested in the same things; some prefer to dance or act, and others are more into sport. Soccer, netball and general exercise were also mentioned a few times. In most cases, they felt it might be difficult for the teens to visit the clinic because they do not want to be seen and have to face discrimination. It might be better for health professionals to visit them or meet somewhere else.

#### **10.2.5. World AIDS Day celebration**

The event took place in the Katutura location of Opuwo on the morning of 01<sup>st</sup> December 2018. It was initially supposed to start at 10h00 but was delayed to give the surrounding community time for gathering and attendance.

Advertisement for the event was done thanks to the Otjiherero Radio Youth Program (on 26, 28 and 30<sup>th</sup> of November – DJ Supi and DJ Undari) and the Kunene community radio (30<sup>th</sup> November – DJ Ndjambi). A campaign was also executed on OYO's Facebook and Instagram pages.



*MC Cecilia Petrus with OYO dancer Desmond*



*Mr Shapumba reading his speech*





*UNICEF representative giving her speech*



*His Worship the Mayor*

The event was well attended and besides the speakers, Headman from Katutura, Mr Hipandulwa, was also present to express support for the initiative.

Venue	Children		Youth		Adults		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Katurura (Opuwo)	28	32	38	35	40	55	228

The programme for the event was as follows:

National and AU Anthems

Introduction and welcoming by MC (Cecilia Petrus, General Manager, OYO)

A brief overview of HIV in the Kunene region (Dr Thomas Shapumba, Director, MoHSS)

Performance 'I have a choice' (OYO Dance Troupe)

Statement from UNICEF (Tapuwa Mutseyekwa, C4D specialist)

Drama performance (Kameru Primary School)

Performance 'I have a choice' (OYO Dance Troupe)

Key note speech (Albert Tjiuma , His worship the Mayor of Opuwo)

Words of thanks (M. Mbinge, CACOC)

Closing remarks by MC

AU and national anthems



*(Audience gathering under the tree)*



Mr Shapumba gave a brief overview of the HIV situation in the Kunene Region and praised the community for keeping the prevalence low. He, however, acknowledged that many men don't know their status and that many people living with the virus in the region don't take their treatment seriously. Mrs Mutseyekwa highlighted the 90-90-90 strategy and outlined the importance to establish vibrant teen clubs. His Worship, Mr Tjiuma asked the community to not only attend OYO events but also to actively take part in the programmes to make a difference.

The OYO Dance Troupe performed two of its pieces, 'I have a choice' and 'To take or not to take' while the Kameru AIDS Awareness Club performed a short drama.



(OYO Dance Troupe performing 'I have a choice' at the event)

#### **10.2.6. Monitoring and evaluation**

An outcome questionnaire was distributed after the performance and answered by 130 people. The most interesting results have been extracted and are presented under the form of a one pager that is to be published on the OYO Facebook page.

#### **10.2.7. Recommendation for next steps**

The absence of NGOs in the Kunene Region is very clear and the region is often pointed out negatively because it has the lowest treatment prevalence and no teen clubs. As explained by Cecilia Petrus: "I was actually surprised when I asked people why they don't go for a test. In Opuwo, they told me that to go for the test you have to go and see a doctor and get a referral from the doctor. You can't just go to the clinic and know your status, as you used to. Many people don't want to queue to see the doctor and therefore end up not knowing their status".

Teen clubs, as established in some regions, may not work because some teens feel too shy and are embarrassed to be seen at such clubs, but when asked in consultation with the health facilities, both parties agree that teen clubs are important for young people living with HIV. Attendance number may not always be high but teens are present. It has been established that the focus should be hospitals (3) and other health facilities (3) because clinics may be too small and not staffed enough to manage such activities.

Many nurses comment that dealing with teens in general is not one of their strengths but speaking from a medical perspective, working with teens is not a problem. Therefore, organising fun activities should be outsourced because in some areas, there are no social workers at the hospitals or health facilities to support such projects. Teens have made it clear that they are willing to attend meetings of such clubs but that there must always be a fun component to maintain their interest in the topics.

#### **10.2.8. Conclusion**

OYO considered this project as very successful. The World AIDS Day tour was an opportunity to connect with many communities, encourage health facilities to think about the creation of teen clubs and discuss with teenagers what they would like to achieve, should teen clubs be established in their areas. It was a chance for the OYO Dance Troupe to present its repertoire and educate the community on the importance of treatment adherence. Other important aspects of the topic, such as the introduction of PrEP, a condom demonstration and the distribution of educational material could also be achieved.

Many development partners often neglect the Kunene Region and OYO's activities were therefore well received. It is important to note that despite the well-reception and its value-addition implications, this was a once-off initiative that has potential to be implemented over a longer term – this momentum cannot be lost and the activities may be implemented by other development partners.



*(Performing in Outjo)*



*(Performing in Warmquelle)*



*(Youth participation in Kamanjab)*



*(Tshirt and education material in Opuwo)*

## **11. The Skulls Project**

This is a new and ambitious project for the Dance Troupe, and hopefully it will culminate with a massive performance at the National Theatre of Namibia in March 2019.

The first part of the project is **research and creation**. As stated in the proposal, through research and an exploration into the past, the young dancers will to answer the following questions:

- ✓ How did the genocide that happened over a century ago affect me? Did it shape my identity? What about the identity of the cultural group I belong to?
- ✓ How can we move forward and how can we, as young people, help shape the narrative around the skulls, reparations and relationships between Namibians? Can we develop an alternate narrative leading to acceptance, inclusion and peace?

The second part of the project will be about collaboration and performance. As stated in the proposal, through collaboration with a renown international artist, Kevork Mourad and through the creation of a new multi-media dance piece, the issue of the genocide will be addressed in terms of how it impacts Namibia nowadays, and how the youth perceive the future.

This work is done with 5 young dancers and 5 dance trainees, who are part of the OYO Dance Troupe.

The research and creation part of the project took place as follows:

- ✓ Dancers had a brainstorming session on the genocide in June 2018, to assess what they knew and how they felt about the project. The biography of Kevork Mourad was also presented during the session.
- ✓ Dancers were then tasked to obtain more information about Kevork Mourad during July and in groups of three, prepare a short presentation about his work.
- ✓ In parallel groups of three, dancers conducted further research (online, visit to the national archives, etc.) to obtain more information about the genocide and select one photo, which they felt talked to them. This photo then had to be presented and explained to the rest of the group, all in July.
- ✓ Also in July and in the same groups of three, they had to create a short sequence inspired by the photo. This sequence was to serve as a basis for the choreography.



- ✓ In July and August, dancers were also tasked to interview elders from their communities – since OYO’s dancers come from different ethnic groups, this was to get different perspectives from their communities on what the genocide was and how it affects relationships between people today. Interviews were recorded and translated.
- ✓ The period August to October was used to create the synopsis for the final piece. Dancers were then regularly tasked to create short sequences. Some of the sequences will be kept in the final piece and some will not – however this project is a new way of working for the dancers, through which they learn more about choreographic skills. Traditionally OYO dancers work with choreographers and are not often challenged to come up with concepts. This project is an opportunity for the young dancers to grow as performers and was therefore a slow but yielding process. By the end of November, many sequences had been created for Act 1 and Act 2.



*Creating sequences*

Parallel to OYO’s choreographer, Philippe Talavera and Kevork Mourad had various Skype calls to discuss how the collaboration would work. Due to budget constraints, Kevork will only be able to spend one week in Namibia, yet he needs to understand the work done by the dancers because he will have little time to interact with them. Clips of the sequences developed by dancers were shared with him and in return, he gave feedback on the work done for dancers to improve. This is again an important learning curve for OYO, as it will be the organisation’s first international collaboration of such magnitude. OYO had in the past held collaborations with choreographers but never with one of such a calibre. Working with Kevork challenged the OYO team to think beyond their comfort zone.

Additionally, the National Theatre of Namibia was booked and the final performance is scheduled for 14 and 15 March 2019. Additional funding will be needed, as some costs have escalated; between July and November 2018, Namibia experienced 3 increases in the cost of petrol, which increased the cost of everything else. This had not been anticipated and proposals were shared with possible corporate partners. Answers are expected between December and January.





*Coming up with concepts for advertising*

Finally, an advertising strategy is under development and dancers were tasked to come up with advertising ideas for the creation of visual material.

### **13. Say No to Child Marriage project**

OYO at the end of 2017 produced the DVD 'Kukuri' with the communities of Omega (Kavango East) and Chetto (Zambezi). It addresses the issue of traditional child marriage in the Kavango and Zambesi regions – a fact discussed too little.

#### **12.1. Premiere DVD 'Kukuri'**

During the first of 2018, the post-production was completed but OYO found itself in a frustrating position: the tool was ready to be used, no doubt, but since no funding could be secured from the Global Fund, OYO had no funding for projects that used the DVD as an educational tool. No provision was made to continue with the project or sustain it, which meant 'Kukuri' soon ran the risk of becoming a "white elephant".

To prevent 'Kukuri's' redundancy, OYO collaborated with and welcomed support of the Warehouse Theatre for the DVD to premiere there on 14 June. The event was organised with no budget and thus had to be kept low key with an attendance of about 90 people. Kukuri didn't attract as many people as 'Salute', partly because its cast is not that well known (all actors are from the Kavango Region) and partly because the topic is less controversial than sodomy in prison. Some of the cast from the remote region were invited to attend the premiere and in the end, the film was well received and featured on various radio stations.

Subsequently, 'Kukuri' was presented to 20 people at the American Cultural Centre on 17 August and to 25 people at the FNCC on 19 September. Both shows, albeit poorly attended, were followed up by a very lively discussion around the issue of child marriage in Namibia, the impact of some traditions and a possible way forward. Finally, the DVD could officially be premiered in Omega on 13 September in the presence of the Headman and over 650 community members.

### 13.2. 'Say no to child marriage' project

OYO secured a small grant from CFLI to manage the campaign in the area around Omega.

#### 13.2.1. Tour of the OYO dance troupe and facilitation of the DVD 'Kukuri'



(Presenting pieces in schools)

The first part of the campaign was to sensitise schools and communities around the issue of child marriage. The OYO Dance Troupe:

- ✓ Created a new piece, 'I have a choice' that tells the story of a schoolgirl whose parents force her to leave school and get married. She then falls pregnant but when she realises she is not happy, she meets with a social worker and finds a way to resume her schooling.
- ✓ Revived two pieces 'Maria' that tells the story of a girl who is forced to leave school and get married, which has her get stuck in the married life; and 'Betrayed' that tells the story of a girl experiencing abuse by a family member.

The pieces were then presented during a tour that took place between 09 and 15 September.

	Learners		Youth		Adults		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Max Makushe CS	562	394			1	3	960
Ndoro Memorial CS	31	20			7	7	65
Martin Ndumba CS	424	414			20	19	877
Andara CS	242	235			3	16	496
Kake PS	148	133			11	5	297
divundu CS	275	191			5	4	475
Kandunda CS	150	122			2	3	277
Bagani CS	201	215			6	3	425
Omega CS	199	205			4	2	410
Divundu community	33	38	50	48	62	59	290
Ndoro community	43	37	51	42	35	23	231
Chetto community	40	31	53	42	25	21	212

Bagani community	19	11	21	14	39	21	125
Omega community	67	59	98	89	109	99	521
	<b>2434</b>	<b>2105</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>5661</b>

A total 5,661 people saw the performances. Comments from the audience include:

- ✓ “The program was very much educational and it goes with the school curriculum. It was dynamic.” Mr Magho, Life Skills teacher, Martin Ndumba Combined School
- ✓ “I have learnt a lot of things, especially on the Child Protection Act. It was very interesting”, Mrs Manyinga, shop-keeper, Chetto community
- ✓ “It was very educational and we enjoyed it. We need more activities of this nature in our community.” Mr Munyima, youth officer, Omega community

The teacher at Max Makushe Secondary School came to the tour manager after the performance and confirmed that the show depicts what is happening in the community. He blamed parents saying, “At school level, we do our best but parents are stuck in the 80s and are saying it is tradition”. He felt more work is needed with community members. The teacher at Divundu Combined School said child marriage mostly happens in the villages around town and it is therefore important for children to know who to talk to.

Reactions to pieces performed by the OYO Dance Troupe were mixed. In ‘Maria’, the girl falls pregnant shortly after marriage and many community members clapped in agreement during the performance, but the discussion afterwards had many community members question their response. It is clear that creating change requires repeated interventions for actions in deeply rooted traditions to change.

Creating a change would need repeated interventions, as it is clear that it is something that is deeply embedded in traditions. The evenings featured the screening of ‘Kukuri’ to continue discussions from the earlier performance.

	Learners		Youth		Adults		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Martin Ndumba CS	96	96			1	1	194
Andara CS	242	235			3	6	486
Omega CS	199	205			4	2	410
Divundu community	30	19	68	51	41	32	241
Chetto community	35	25	62	41	49	30	242
Omega community	77	70	120	110	145	130	652
	<b>679</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>2225</b>

The DVD shows were big events because it was recorded the area, so it was easy for viewers to relate. In Chetto, the headman was informed about the screening and invited the whole community personally. The screening happened close to the homestead where many scenes were shot. After the screening, the headman spoke out against child marriage and encouraged his community to keep children in school.

Omega’s DVD show was also a big event as most actors are from that settlement. The audience was excited to see their friends in the DVD and at times, they focused more on what their friends were saying and forgot that they were acting. The event was however

worthwhile and ended with a meaningful discussion. The headman was also present and took the opportunity to speak out against child marriage. He stressed that eh does not want children from his community to drop out of school because of marriage. OYO's director attended the event handed over copies of the DVD to the cast.

The DVD screening at Omega Combined School was also a success, as the children actor and lead actress are from that school. The screening led to lively discussions.

### **13.2.2. Facilitation of the OYO magazine**

The second part of the campaign was to facilitate in-depth discussions with smaller groups of young people using the OYO magazine on the Child Care and Protection Act. The Act does mention child marriage and stipulates it is not acceptable.

OYO had worked with magazine facilitators in the Kavango Region under its Global Fund programme in 2017. One of the facilitators was invited to Windhoek for three-day-long refresher training before she organised her planning to visit schools in the region.

The facilitation of the magazine had to happen from September onwards. The last school quarter is always a difficult because schools are more focused on the forthcoming exams. To be counted as reached, a learner must attend at least four out of the five sessions.

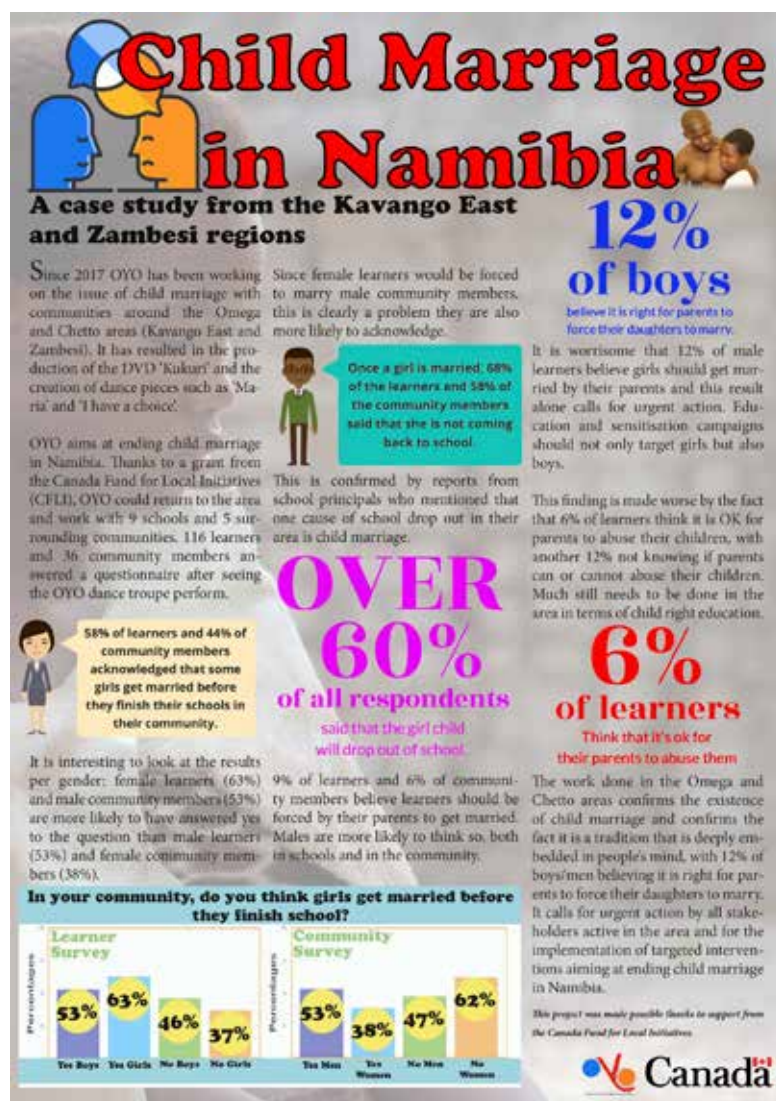
	# learners					# certificates
	Visit 1	Visit 2	Visit 3	Visit 4	Visit 5	
Martin Ndumba CS	85	85	81	81	81	81
Max Makushe CS	58	58	58	56	56	56
Andara Combined School	53	53	53	53	53	53
Divundu Combined School	27	38	38	33	32	27
Bagani Combined School	51	51	51	50	50	50
Omega Combined School	36	36	36	36	36	36
Kake Primary School	41	41	39	38	35	35
Kandunda Kasote CS	38	38	38	38	38	38
Ndoro Memorial CS	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>376</b>

All nine of the schools took part in the programme and 376 learners completed the sessions before receiving a certificate of attendance.

### **13.2.3. Other achievement**

With both the Dance Troupe tour and DVD show, OYO took the chance to distribute a questionnaire and find out more about child marriage in the region. Main results were summarised in the form of a one-pager and short video clip.





A shocking 12% of boys believe it is acceptable for parents to force their daughters to marry, which raises concern and justifies an urgent intervention. Both the pager and video were shared on Facebook, where the pager reached 1,422 views and the video reached 660 people and got 228 views.

### 13.2.4. Conclusion

The project was successful and reached its targets. It confirmed the need for more interventions. Child marriage is deeply engrained in the traditions and changing attitudes or behaviour will not happen overnight. It will take some time before people accept that school is more of a priority than marriage. Interventions are needed now because too many boys are in favour of child marriage.

## 14. Other interventions

### 14.1. Celebrating UHC Day

In order to celebrate Universal Health Coverage day, two events with the OYO Dance Troupe were organized in Katutura where some of Windhoek's informal settlements are located.

The first event was organized on the 11 November at Goreagab Dam, while the main event was held in Okahandja Park on the official day of observation. Both events started around 4.30pm and lasted three hours.

Venue	Children		Youth		Adults		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Goreagab Dam	39	18	25	20	9	7	118
Okahandja Park	50	46	76	52	30	28	282
	<b>89</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>400</b>

About 400 people attended the event.



*(OYO dance troupe performing)*

The OYO Dance Troupe presented three pieces during the two events:

- ✓ 'What is love' served as an introduction. It looks at HIV in school hostels and addresses the issue of stigma and discrimination. During the facilitation, people were asked what they know about UHC and what they think about services available to people living with HIV.
- ✓ 'To take or not to take' looks at the issue of treatment adherence and PrEP. Since HIV is one of the leading health problems in Namibia, it made sense to focus on it with the pieces. However, during the facilitation, the questions were broadened: do people think all diseases are given the same attention as HIV? What works and doesn't work for them with the current health system? What could be improved?
- ✓ The final piece 'Thiasus' looked at the issue of alcohol abuse. Alcohol abuse is a problem in Namibia and can unnecessarily burden the health system. People were made aware that as much as health is a right to all, they also have the responsibility to do their part and stay healthy.

On 12 December, between the first two pieces,

The WHO acting representative, Mrs Mary Brantuo, on 12 December delivered a speech in-between two of the performances. Her address was short, straight to the point and strong.



(WHO acting representative giving a speech)

In parallel, the Corridor Group attended both days with a mobile clinic to provide free HIV testing, measure blood pressure and answer questions.



(setting up with the clinic)

Educational material was distributed and condom demonstrations were held.

Also important was the presence of the acting deputy director for HAMU (HIV/AIDS Management Unit) at the event on 12 December, where the audience were asked what they think of health services in Namibia. To bridge language barriers, dancers assisted those who could not write or speak in English while completing a questionnaire. Outspoken audience members were invited to record a video message and the shy ones were invited to take part in a focus group discussion. Feedback is being summarised for a one-pager that will be shared with the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

It is important to note that 15 December to 10 January is the summer holiday in Namibia, which means that most offices are closed and people are on holiday. Therefore, sharing information at that time of the year is not strategic. The one pager will thus be shared on OYO's Facebook page before 10 January but will only be shared with the ministry once offices re-open.

## **14.2. Attending the Maitisong Arts Festival and performing in Botswana**



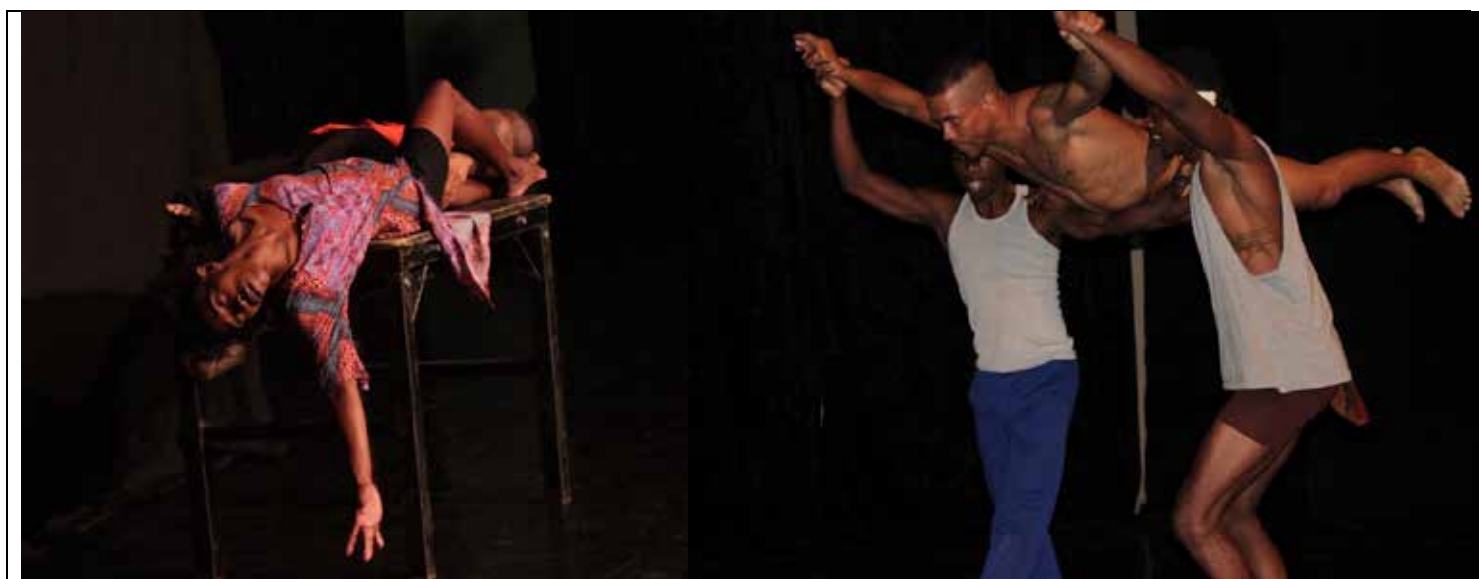
#### **14.2.1. Performance with the local Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture**

OYO was under the impression that the ministry in Botswana was eager for the organisation's Dance Troupe to perform at an event on Friday 20 April and indeed, the contact person was supportive. However, it appeared that the performance scheduled at the local bus station, was not well organised. The electricity was not reliable and later it appeared that no electricity could be used in the area. The event had to be cancelled. It also appeared that OYO was the only performer at the event, so it is quite unclear what the event was really about.

On the positive side, good contact was made with the Ministry of Youth that was eager to develop a partnership with OYO. It felt however that they were more interested in coming to Namibia to perform than supporting OYO to perform in Botswana. Despite the misunderstanding, this still provides an opportunity for OYO to think about developing programmes and performances for schools in that country.

#### **14.2.2. Performances at the Maitisong Festival**

Unlike in 2016, the festival ran over more days but with fewer performances per day. On Friday 20 April, there were only two performances – one at 18h00 and one at 20h00. The venue was less busy than during the previous festival. The troupe was originally scheduled in another venue but then re-directed to the main stage, where the technical setup ran pretty smoothly. OYO had brought a triple bill to the festival, presenting its repertoire of 'Maria', 'The Phantom of Namibia' and 'Thiasus'.



The first show on Friday 20 April at 18h00 was poorly attended, as the audience consisted of only 35 people; small but appreciative audience with many from the dance sector. The second show on Saturday 21 April at 20h00 was even more poorly attended with only 15 audience members. Despite the small audience, many were from South Africa and the UK. Guest dancer Monray Garoeb joined the team for the shows in Gaborone.

Therefore, attending and participating at the festival were not worthwhile. Apart from the low show attendance, there were also no other dance shows on display while OYO was there, with the exception of a short preview by a South African team. OYO dancers could therefore not seek inspiration from new works.



On the flip side, OYO did make new contacts:

- ✓ With the South African company that came on Saturday morning and is interested in a collaboration
- ✓ With another South African producer and dancer, who is also interested in bringing work to Namibia
- ✓ With an art promoter from the UK, who is interested also in the DVDs 'Salute' and 'Kukuri'
- ✓ It also allowed us to renew contact with older contacts from 2016, including Duncan Sebopelo, who gave a dance workshop for OYO and Moratiwa, who is now working in South Africa.

#### **14.2.3. Meeting with the High Commission of Namibia in Botswana**

The meeting took place and was a good opportunity to promote OYO. In particular, many photos were taken with representatives from the Ministry of Youth, who will place them in their monthly newsletter. The High Commission didn't assist with advertising for the performance as much as was expected and also did not attend the performance either. All that aside, it is good publicity for OYO.

#### **14.2.4. Performance at the University of Botswana**

The University was having a cultural day where students from abroad were invited to wear their traditional attire. The OYO dance troupe was invited to perform only 'Thiasus'. It was a large crowd of about 150 people, including university directors and deputy directors. Even though the performance took place in the sun, it was a good performance from the dancers and a very appreciative audience.

In retrospect, this performance was worthwhile because useful contacts were made and the local university could become an important partner with OYO. Yes, the event was a little disorganised but the organisers were very hospitable and shared traditional food with the OYO team.

#### **14.2.5. Conclusion**

It is difficult to market OYO abroad as nobody is familiar with the organisation and what it does, but pursuing such goals does create new links and makes OYO part of the international network. In the organisation's current time of crisis since the withdrawal of the Global Fund, it is important for OYO to develop a new identity and establish new connections from where a new financial stability could be obtained. OYO has potential in Botswana, not only at schools and correctional facilities, but also in arts sector that is more developed than in Namibia. Therefore and despite the low audience attendance, the trip was worth the time, money and energy because of the potential partners OYO met.

### **14.3. Premiering 'Trapped' in Rotterdam**

Three dancers were invited by Prince Claus to attend a weeklong residency in the Netherlands, culminating in a performance during an event on 29 September.

The invitation presented the Dutch partners as follows:

The Prince Claus Fund supports, connects and celebrates artists and cultural practitioners where cultural expression is under pressure and safeguards cultural heritage where it is under threat. Pantropical is a frenzied concert/club series focusing on rough-edged tropical music, contemporary club music, outré rural folklore, global bass and more. Pantropical

balances the new with the trailblazers of old, seeking out authenticity and new movements. It was obvious the venue would therefore not be an easy one. Also, the Prince Claus approach was that dancers could rehearse on their own and organize all the technical rehearsals themselves, which is not realistic.

This was however an opportunity for OYO however to offer an incentive to dancers. A series of tasks was agreed upon and dancers completing tasks would be selected. The dancers selected were El-Junita 'Butterfly' Philander, Hermann 'Kassi' Hausiku and Teemus 'Joe' Nakapela. Together with Philippe Talavera, they created the performance 'Trapped'.

'Trapped' was devised for a European audience, which meant it was bolder and more contemporary than other OYO pieces, but it was kept faithful to OYO's philosophy of addressing social issues. It looked at a young man marrying a girl but simply to please society, and while he was dreaming of being with another man – he is too scared to disclose and be honest about his sexuality. He traps himself in a marriage that doesn't make him happy.

Getting visas for the dancers proved extremely difficult, despite various interventions. Dancers were due to fly on 22 September and only got their visas on 21 September for their trip until 30 September. During the week, they had the opportunity to meet with young dancers and choreographers, see their work, meet with the Prince Claus team and attend various classes. They also had time to rehearse.

Despite the fact OYO's director was not invited, he flew to Europe on 25 September and arrived in the Netherlands on 28 September when he could attend the last three hours of rehearsals. It was obvious that the three dancers had worked hard but that they still found working on their own not as easy as it is expected. The last rehearsal was therefore important to iron out some of the problem spots.

On 29 September, the team had five hours for the technical rehearsal. The venue was a big hall with a dance floor and the lighting was extremely difficult, which meant the rehearsal took longer than expected. A successful run though was achieved by the end of the session.

The event itself was scheduled for 20h30 and OYO allocated to the 22h45 slot, which meant that team could attend the performances of others, such as a political movement piece, a young singer and a fashion show. Dancers then had thirty minutes to warm up before the piece was successfully presented to over 200 guests who received the piece well. Most of the top management from Prince Claus had left before OYO's performance, as it was late, but whoever remained was impressed.

This was a good opportunity for the dancers to gain experience and have international exposure. Despite the costs of also sending OYO's director, it was unrealistic for the dancers to manage everything on their own. Such projects need to be approached with more care and better financial planning, in the sense that OYO would only accept such invitations if a positive outcome is guaranteed.



Besides the event on 28 September, the team could also attend a performance by the Connie Janssen Dance Company, which was a very exciting evening of contemporary dance. Following the show, the team could meet with Connie Janssen, hear from her experience and understand how her company works. This is a useful contact to advertise future dance internship. Her approach to advertisement of work by young choreographers was extremely informative and helped OYO to decide on a strategy to advertise 'The Skulls' project in 2019.

#### **14.4. Internship programmes:**

OYO every year organises an internship programme for young dancers from anywhere in the world to work with OYO dancers. This provides the local and international dancers with the opportunity to learn from each other and expand their vocabulary, while OYO ensures the much-needed funding. The internship is organised in collaboration with Claire Crowley, former OYO VSO, who is now based in the UK.

This year had very few requests for internship, probably because of the international economic downturn, which resulted in two dancers joining OYO in August and a third at the end of the year.

OYO therefore organised the first internship programme from 30 July to 24 August with Louisa from the Netherlands and Sam from Belgium. Louisa actually came for ten weeks, taking part in other activities with OYO prior to the internship (including with the 'In and Out' project in Oluno and 'Growing strong in the Karas Region' in Keetmanshoop). During the first three weeks, Louisa and Sam worked with OYO dancers and devised a new piece, 'Oxossi's betrayed' that examines poaching. Sam also learnt one of the roles in 'I have a choice' and the two pieces were performed in and around Windhoek during the week 20 to 24 August. Louisa had to miss the first performances because of an injury but could join on the last two days.

A total of 1,363 people attended the performances and of note was the official event at the Goethe-Institut that was very supportive of the project by providing rehearsal space for the three weeks. The event was well attended by friends and colleagues of OYO.

	Learners	Youth	Adults	Total
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	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
KAYEC Trust	10	12	3	1	1	1	28
Omaruru Correctional Facility	0	0	0	0	14	59	73
Okahandja Community	200	166	15	10	7	8	406
Rehoboth Community	32	29	42	33	29	20	185
Windhoek correctional facility	0	0	0	0	2	29	31
Namibia children's home	10	8	6	4	7	2	37
UNAM Neudam campus	12	14	26	24	0	0	76
IUM campus	0	0	60	50	30	40	180
Lingua training college	0	0	60	30	9	4	103
Goethe Institute	6	4	15	18	80	74	197
SOS village	14	17	8	5	3	0	47
	<b>284</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>1363</b>



*(Performing with intern Sam)*

Interesting and worth noting is that an inmate at the Omaruru Correctional Facility confessed he was awaiting trial on a charge of poaching, and that 'Oxossi's betrayed' was relevant. Most venues were known to OYO but it was OYO's first time to perform at the International Training College Lingua that was very impressed by the programme.

The third intern, Chantal, came to interact with OYO during November and the work done with her, including the creation of her piece, is reported under the Kunene tour (point 10.2.)

### 14.5. Other performances by the OYO Dance Troupe

The OYO dance troupe was invited to perform on a few occasions and those worth noting include:

- ✓ Performance at OYO's annual presentation on 22 February at the Goethe-Institut. OYO every year presents its annual programme during an evening of dance and this year, the dance troupe presented 'Thiasus' and 'Maria' to over 90 guests, including



Deputy Minister for Environment and Tourism, Hon. Bernadette Jagger and H.E. Claire Bodonyi, Ambassador of the Republic of France to Namibia.

- ✓ The performance at the Queen's birthday party on 06 June. The British High Commission invited the Dance Troupe to perform a short piece on the issue of poaching. The troupe then created 'Don't kill the elephant'; a five-minute-long piece, and performed it as part of the event. The piece was well-received.



*(performing at the Queen's birthday party)*

- ✓ The performance at the Central Hospital on 29 June in support of an event they were organising that day.
- ✓ The performance at the launch of the NAMPHIA results on 01<sup>st</sup> August. It was an event organised by the Ministry of Health and Social Services, attended by Hon. B. Haufiku, then minister, the Permanent Secretary and Deputy Permanent Secretary, H.E. the Ambassador of the United States of America and over 100 distinguished guests. The dance troupe presented 'To take or not to take' that covered a story on treatment adherence.
- ✓ The performance during the ITECH girls camps organised in Windhoek during December. ITECH organised two camps for adolescent girls and young women in Windhoek. OYO was contracted to organise activities with participants. The Dance Troupe performed 'Thiasus' on alcohol and drug abuse' and 'To take or not to take'. OYO also screened its DVD 'Now that I can talk about it' on the issue of gender-based violence.

## **15. Counseling**

As part of its efforts to offer a comprehensive service, OYO has been traveling with youth counsellors since 2015. This used to be very successful, partially because when watching a performance or DVD, young people may be affected in different ways. It is therefore important to offer them counselling if they feel the need to talk and share their story with the goal of obtaining counselling. Young people tend to prefer sharing private matters with somebody they don't know than confiding in a close friend or relative – or anybody with a connection to their community. They prefer the anonymity of an external counsellor.

In 2018, OYO could not officially renew the position of youth counsellor because of budgetary constraints, but with one of its youth development officers - Nyandee Mbarandongo - having completed relevant training, OYO could continue offering on the spot counselling during tours and after performances. External counsellors were sometimes contracted to meet the demand, but only when the budget did allow. A total of 148 cases were attended to throughout the year.

Furthermore, Nyandee also took the initiative to organise group counselling sessions with inmates he worked with during the 'In and out' project and youth groups he supported. The group-counselling sessions proved very useful to dispel myths around counselling and also functioned as team-building sessions since participants were offered the opportunity to share experiences in a respectful way.

## **16. Sustainability**

This year has been an extremely challenging one for OYO, as it marked the end of its long-term partnership with the Global Fund in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The GF grant has represented, over the year, between 45% and up to 80% of OYO's funding. The matter of sustainability has therefore never been more important.

Thanks to a grant from the Network for Social Change, OYO could employ a Resource Mobilisation Officer, Ms Angela Tomas, but this lasted only till the end of August because Ms Thomas was granted a bursary to further her studies in the UK. The position had then been frozen and the portfolio handed back to the director.

The following is worth noting:

- ✓ OYO during 2018 submitted 50 proposals, of which nine came back positive. All former OYO partners, except for the micro-grant negotiated with UHC 2030. A total of twenty-five came back negative and 16 have been carried forward to 2019, with answers expected between January and June.
- ✓ OYO has explored new avenues to secure funding, including submitting its DVD 'Salute' to festivals. While this has not proven effective it helped marketing OYO internationally.
- ✓ OYO has redesigned its website and implemented a more efficient social media strategy

By the end of 2018, OYO had not reached a sustainable state of finances and remained donor dependent in an environment that is undeniably not favourable to NGOs. There are opportunities but they are hard to come by, and until a sustainable state of economic affairs is reached, OYO is proud to keep its doors open while pursuing other creative efforts in securing funds.

## **17. Institutional support**

### **17.1. Staffing**

This year has indeed been one of a kind as despite the tough economic environment, OYO didn't have to retrench any staff but so many resigned and left their positions frozen. The Dance Troupe was the most affected at the beginning of the year and the news was not taken lightly as not one dancer could be replaced easily.

Staffing in 2018 was as follows:

- ✓ Director: Philippe Talavera
- ✓ General Manager: Cecilia Petrus
- ✓ Finance Manager: Freddie Scholtz (till April), Michaela Kanzler (till November) and Veronika Eichhoff (from December)
- ✓ Logistics Manager: Karolina Katumbo
- ✓ Production Manager: Joshua Homateni
- ✓ Resource Mobilisation Manager: Angela Thomas (resigned end August)
- ✓ Youth Development Officers: Ivan ‘Fly’ Mueze (resigned end August) and Njandee Mbarandongo
- ✓ Dancers: El Junita ‘Butterfly’ Philander, Osysin Puteho, Herman ‘Kassi’ Hausiku, Teemus ‘Joe’ Nakapela, Mary Jane Andreas and Sophie Janser
- ✓ Dance trainees: Desmond Kamarika, Nelawrence Somseb, Jeffrey Ndjahera, Willem Goaseb

Of note was that OYO’s finance manager had to resign because of health reasons in April 2018. Finding a replacement on short notice was not easy. Michaela Kanzler was contracted and did a lot of work to help OYO manage the post-Global Fund transition. At the end of the year, Veronika Eichhoff was selected to take over.

### **17.2. Celebrating staff with OYO for ten years**

During the event on 19 June, OYO could celebrate three of its staff that had spent over a decade with the organisation:

- ✓ Ivan ‘Fly’ Mueze started in 2006 as a recipient part of the Omaruru youth group and then acted in ‘The hostel monologues’. In 2007, he became a production assistant and has since worked with youth groups.
- ✓ Cecilia Petrus also started in 2006 as a recipient part of the Opuwo youth group. She took part in both regional and national tours, and in 2007 became an OYO facilitator before moving up the ladder.
- ✓ Joshua Homateni started in 2008 as a recipient part of the Omaruru youth group. He then joined the cast of ‘The Namibian Odysseus’ at the National Theatre of Namibia before joining OYO as a production assistant.

A certificate of appreciations and gift was given to all three staff by OYO board members, in the presence of Mrs Sanet Steenkamp, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and H.E. Pirkko-Liisa Kyostila, Ambassador of Finland to Namibia.



*(handover ceremony)*

### **17.3. Transport**

The beginning of the year had been difficult, with uncertainty regarding vehicles that the Global Fund office would recall. This sadly prevailed and the GF recalled OYO's new 4x4 and quantum buses. Later, the GF officially donated the two quantum busses and other older vehicles to OYO.

While OYO is grateful for the donation of the quantum, the absence of a new and reliable car has been a challenge. OYO is still looking at opportunities to get a new car for field work.

### **17.4. Offices**

Head Office is still situated at 4 Babie Street, Suiderhof, Windhoek.

### **17.5. Staff training**

Due to lack of funding, OYO could not organise quarterly staff training but at the beginning of the year held a short staff training session in which obtained results were reviewed, the programme for 2018 was presented and important knowledge; such as that on HIV and STIs, were recapped.

During the year, OYO also reworked its Child Protection Policy and adopted a new Child Safeguarding Policy. The Policy was presented to all staff during a briefing at the end of October.

Finally, a short briefing took place on 13 December with all the staff present to review results obtained during the year.

### **17.6. OYO trustee's meetings**

Full OYO Board meetings took place on 25 January 2018, 25 April 2018, 21 August 2018, and 29 November 2018. Regular meetings with Board members took place throughout the year, as the board was eager to follow the financial situation of the organisation closely.



## **18. Other important meetings**

### **18.1. Meeting with MCStachi (Cape Town, South Africa)**

This meeting took place on Thursday 19 April in Cape Town, after the former Global Fund country representative for Namibia put OYO's director in touch with MCStacchi the previous month. MCStacchi was looking into the production of a SADC radio drama on the issue of Key Population. MCStaachi London won the bid and asked their branch in Cape Town to look for partners at a short notice. OYO submitted a bid but didn't succeed because MCStaachi went with a partner they knew. OYO however received good feedback on the concept and was encouraged to maintain the cordial relations with the MCStacchi office in Cape Town.

Despite the unsuccessful bid, OYO made the best of the opportunity and promoted itself through an official introduction of the organisation and what it does; a handover of examples and an outline of OYO methodologies. This will hopefully grow into a fruitful partnership in the near future.

### **18.2. Meeting with the International School (Brussels, Belgium)**

This meeting was on invitation by Sanjee Goonetilake, who used to belong to the Diplomatic Spouses Association of Namibia and therefore knew OYO. She had scheduled two screenings of 'Kukuri' at the international school on 27 September, with the aim to introduce OYO and the work we are doing.

The two screenings were organized for two of the Grade 12 classes. The first 30 minutes of the DVD was presented, followed by a discussion with students. The screenings went well and students were eager to participate. One student from the first screening was so touched by the film that she asked for a third screening with a different class, which could be organised. In total, about 80 students saw the film and took part in a discussion.

The school every year in May organises a fundraising for selected charities and the purpose of the trip was for OYO to be considered as a beneficiary in the near future. One of the lead organisers was the teacher responsible for the third class. She was very impressed by OYO's work and encouraged the organisation to apply for beneficiary status in February and regarding the Footfest Fundraiser. While this is not an immediate and large source of funding, it could be the beginning of a long-term relationship with the school. Many parents work for the EU and it could also be a way for OYO to become known by key stakeholders. The day at the school was extremely successful.

Sanjee also introduced OYO's director to Manuela Caramujo, who works as editor for a magazine called 'One World'. This magazine focuses on art projects that make a difference. It is published in Portuguese. Manuela agreed, in principal, to interview OYO at the beginning of 2019 and for the organisation to feature one of its works in an edition later that year. This could be a very important public relations exercise.

### **18.3. Meeting with Girls not Brides (London, UK)**

Girls not Brides is a huge international network of organisations working on the issue of child marriage, with its secretariat in London. They have over 1000 members, none of which are from Namibia (REPSSI from South Africa is a member and since they have a small branch in Namibia, they are their only linked with the country).

OYO's director could meet with them on 08 October and introduce the work done with 'Kukuri' and the CFLI project. It was agreed that OYO will register as a member of the network and benefit from its operations. They will share fundraising opportunities with OYO and through their newsletter, OYO will gain more knowledge on the issue of child marriage.

Becoming members of such international networks is important for the future of OYO. It will help the organisation to position itself as an expert and allow it to become known on international platforms. It will also allow OYO to gain access to fundraising opportunities. Girls not Brides was interested in OYO's work and the organisation's approach. They kept six copies of the magazine and three copies of the DVD. Some of their members are due to travel to Zambia soon and will share the resources there.

Upon return, OYO applied to become a member of the network and the application was approved at the end of 2018. The application was approved at the end of the year.

#### **18.4. Other meetings**

While in the UK the OYO director also:

- ✓ Renewed contact with Mohamed Osman from the Elton John Foundation
- ✓ Renewed contact with Rachel Bradbear to further discuss options for a ten year reunion with ctrl.alt.shift
- ✓ Prepared a project proposal for the Hilden Charitable Trust
- ✓ Had further discussions with Liita Carney from the firstperiod.com / Kalitasha project about opportunities for OYO and Kalitasha to collaborate in the future. This is potentially a huge collaboration (OYO has included Kalitasha in its proposal to Grand Challenge Canada while Kalitasha is including OYO in a large EU proposal).

### **19. Thanks to our donors**

OYO would like to thank all its donors and sponsors for their support, without which its work would not have been possible. OYO received financial support for its activities in 2018 from:

- ✓ the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
- ✓ the Elma Philanthropies
- ✓ the Embassy of Finland
- ✓ the Horizon Foundation
- ✓ the Namibia Networks of Aids Services Organisations (NANASO), through the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (January to March 2018)
- ✓ the Network for Social Change
- ✓ OSISA (Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa)
- ✓ The Prince Claus Fund
- ✓ UNAIDS
- ✓ UNICEF
- ✓ UNESCO
- ✓ the Valentine Charitable Trust

We would also like to thank:

- ✓ Claire Crowley for her devotion and support towards our internship programme
- ✓ UHD2030 for supporting our event on Universal Health Coverage Day
- ✓ the NAMPHIA programme, ITECH and everybody that invited us to perform during their high profile events;

- ✓ the Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre and the American Cultural Centre for inviting us to screen our DVD;
- ✓ the Maitisong Arts Festival for inviting us to perform in Gaborone as part of the festival;
- ✓ OYO Scotland for their continued support;
- ✓ the Goethe-Institute, for supporting our rehearsals, in particular during the internship programme;
- ✓ the interns who came to Namibia and made sure the Summer Internship project was a resounding success;
- ✓ the City of Windhoek – in particular, the Community Development Division, for offering us rehearsal space;
- ✓ the Warehouse Theatre for hosting the premiere of 'Kukuri';
- ✓ the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture – in particular, all the regional AIDS Committees for Education that helped us organise our tours;
- ✓ the Ministry of Safety and Security for trusting us with the 'In and out' project and supporting logistics and implementation;

Finally, our thanks are also due to all the facilitators, dance trainees, volunteers and youth who have, in one way or another, contributed to our projects