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GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL STATES PROGRAMME

BUND-LÄNDER-PROGRAMM (BLP)

Federal state – partner country



Freie
Hansestadt
Bremen

Title

Strengthening Resilience in the Health Sector in Namibia! Building Medical-scientific Competencies and Further Developing Capacities for Teaching and Research at the University of Namibia UNAM

In cooperation with the GIZ programme

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Financing arrangements

BMZ contribution	€ 379,001.50
Bremen contribution	€ 247,450.00

Duration

01.09.2021 – 31.03.2023

Responsible ministry

Free Hanseatic City of Bremen
Senate Chancellery, Division 32
International relations and development cooperation

This project helps to achieve the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Practical class for medical students in the UNAM Katutura State Hospital TB Ward

Combating the Pandemic by Developing Research and Teaching Capacity

Local situation

Over recent years Namibia has invested heavily in its health infrastructure and in the development of its research, diagnostic and training capacity. Yet the pandemic has made clear that more work is necessary in these fields. Thus, the project aims to strengthen the country's diagnostic and scientific resources and establish new training courses in areas of public health, epidemiology and preventive care.

Cooperation arrangements

The project builds on the long-standing partnership between the University of Namibia (UNAM) and the University of Bremen. Its implementation partners are the Institute of Public Health and Nursing Research at the University of Bremen, the Leibniz Institute for Prevention Research and Epidemiology (BIPS), the Research Center Borstel (FZ Borstel) and the Department of Pulmonology at the University Hos-

"The support we have received from the BLP will enable us at long last to establish a state-of-the-art research laboratory and provide better care for patients with tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. Looking further ahead, that will also allow the University of Namibia to play a role in important international projects."

Dr Gunar Günther,

Senior physician, Department of Pulmonology
at the University Hospital of Bern.

Since 2015 employed by the Namibian Ministry of Health
and a visiting professor at the University of Namibia



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Staff at work in the UNAM Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory

pital of Bern, which are all involved in building the scientific and diagnostic capacity of local actors in the field of infectious diseases.

The project's cooperation partner in Namibia is the University of Namibia (UNAM), with its School of Nursing and Public Health, School of Medicine (SoM) and Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology.

What we are doing – and how

The project is part of the German Government and Federal States Programme (German: Bund-Länder-Programm; BLP). Its purpose is to strengthen the resilience of the Namibian health system and bring about lasting improvements in health care. KfW is financing a new biosafety level 3 (BSL 3) laboratory that will be designed to perform diagnostic testing and research in the areas of Covid-19, tuberculosis, and drug resistance to expand laboratory capacity at UNAM SoM. The BLP project will support the laboratory by purchasing equipment and materials and by helping to fund a new post-doctoral position. It will also advise and train the UNAM laboratory team in areas such as laboratory processes, specific diagnoses, and quality management.

Both sides will benefit from the sharing of information on the pandemic and on the lessons learned both in Namibia and Germany. To this end, the project will establish sustainable mechanisms for transferring knowledge, e.g. through activities such as joint lectures for students in Namibia and Bremen.

Together with its implementation partners, it will also update the curriculum of the School of Public Health, provide in-service training for teaching staff and introduce practical supervision for UNAM medical students. An international symposium initiated by the cooperation partners will allow a wider public audience to find out more about the responses of medical science, health systems and public health bodies to the challenges created by newly emerging infections.

Useful links

- University of Bremen:
<https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/cooperation>
- Leibniz Institute for Prevention Research and Epidemiology (BIPS):
<https://www.bips-institut.de/en/home.html>
- Research Center Borstel:
<https://fz-borstel.de/index.php/en/>
- University of Namibia:
<https://www.unam.edu.na/>
- More information on the programme:
<https://bund-laender-programm.de/en>
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/91262.html>
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/34949.html>

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