

## Ambassador Nishimaki's Attendance at the UNFPA Empowerment Graduation and Handover Ceremony for Young Mothers in Katutura (November 29, 2023)

2023/11/29

Ambassador Nishimaki officiated at the Empowerment Graduation and Handover Ceremony for Young Mothers in Katutura under the Japan funded project called “Leaving No One Behind - Building back better from COVID-19: Restoring dignity and reshaping the future for women, girls, men, and boys while mitigating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and negative Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) outcomes.”

This project, funded through the Japan Supplementary Budget 2023 to the tune of N\$ 13 million, is being implemented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in 6 regions namely Khomas, Kunene, Ohangwena, Zambezi, Kavango West and Kavango East regions and one of the project's objectives is to improve livelihoods through skills development, aiming to create a positive impact on the lives of young people. UNFPA therefore supported the Lidar Community Foundation through its partnership with Regain Trust to empower young mothers with livelihood skills and 40 young mothers successfully completed the Empowerment program and were handed certificates at the graduation ceremony. The empowerment program focused on entrepreneurship skills, financial literacy, GBV prevention and response, sexual and reproductive health, mental health and psychosocial support as well as parenting skills.

During the event, business starter kits comprised of various equipment, tools and ingredients were handed over to the young mothers, which will enable them to put their new found skills into practice by running their own small businesses to enhance their living conditions and those of their families.

Ambassador Nishimaki remarked that, “The skills gained during training I believe will contribute to these young peoples' resilience to deal with and overcome setbacks which life throws at them by diversifying their livelihood systems.”

The event was well attended by local Constituency Councillors, the Kharas Governor's Office and the implementing agency and partners.



Remarks by Ambassador Nishimaki



Handing over of Certificate

(From Left) Ambassador Nishimaki, Mr. Katjaimo, Katutura Central constituency councillor, and a young mother



Young mothers



Group Photo