

On May 21, 2024, the Shoe Laundry Initiative - Tidy Tekkies, a livelihood upliftment initiative, funded through the Leaving No One Behind project being implemented by UNFPA with funding from the Japan Supplementary Budget was launched at the #Be Free Youth Campus in the Katutura suburb of Windhoek, Namibia.

Representing the Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, Republic of Namibia, Mr. Dawid Gawaseb, as well as Ms. Erika Goldson the UNFPA Namibia Country Representative, all echoed the appreciation and gratitude towards the people of Japan for supporting the initiative recognizing that youth empowerment is crucial for economic growth, innovation and building a sense of ownership and responsibility in response to the high level of unemployment young people currently face in Namibia.

The Leaving No One Behind Project under UNFPA was launched to uphold the dignity of women, girls, men, and boys and the Shoe Laundry Initiative, which is designed to help youth start shoe laundry services, is a testament to this commitment said Ambassador Nishimaki in his remarks delivered on his behalf by Ms. Yano Mariko, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Namibia.

The Tidy Tekkies Shoe Laundry Hub will be run by 5 beneficiaries all of whom attended last year's Shoe Laundry Skills Development Training organized under the very same Leaving No One Behind Project,



Official ribbon-cutting ceremony of the shoe container for shoe laundry services; from left to right in the foreground above is Ms. Yano Mariko (Third Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Namibia), Ms. Erika Goldson (UNFPA Namibia Country Representative), Ms. Uajorokisa Karuaihe (One Economy Foundation CEO) and Mr. Dawid Gawaseb (Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service, Republic of Namibia).



In his absence the remarks by H.E. Mr. Hisao NISHIMAKI, Ambassador of Japan to Namibia was read on his behalf by, Ms. Yano Mariko (picture left), Third Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Namibia at the event.



Above: One Economy Foundation CEO Uajorokisa Karuaihe thanked the Government of Japan and UNFPA Namibia for selecting their organisation as a partner on this project.

Below left to right: Ms. Erika Goldson (UNFPA Namibia Country Representative), Mr. Dawid Gawaseb (Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service) delivering their remarks.



Above: Tidy Tekkies beneficiary Hilma Imene expressed her 5 member team's gratitude to the Japanese Government and its implementing partners noting that this achievement is a testament to the power of continuous and holistic investment in young people's skills development.







All pictures courtesy of One Economy Foundation.