



Welfare Organisation Registered with the Ministry of Health and Social Services  
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### For immediate release



On 17 April 2013, His Excellency Onno Hückmann, Ambassador to Namibia from the Federal Republic of Germany, officially opened the new building of the Early Childhood Development After-School Resource Centre (RC). The German Embassy provided funding to construct the new building, which is located next to Jakob Marengo Secondary School on Mungunda Street in Katutura.

Caption: His Excellency Onno Hückmann, Ambassador to Namibia from the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), cuts the ribbon to officially open a new classroom for the Early Childhood Development After-School Resource Centre (RC). Pictured with Ambassador Hückmann are learners Milko Solunga, Elvis Mertens, and Luis Solunga, Mrs. Otilie Abrahams of the Namibian Women's Association, Ms. Christina Jansen, RC teacher, and Mrs. Lauren Voges, Chair of the International Women's Association Namibia.

Representatives of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, the Ministry of Education, the Namibian Women's Association (NAWA), the International Women's Association Namibia (IWAN), teachers, learners, parents, and the other volunteer groups that help operate the RC were also on hand for the event.

The Resource Centre, an after-school program that has been meeting at Jakob Marengo Secondary School, provides early childhood development, support of primary education, and guidance in life skills for children between the ages of 4 and 14. The Centre was started in 2008 by NAWA and now is a cooperative project of NAWA, IWAN, Jakob Marengo Secondary School, SCORE (an international nonprofit organization specializing in community development through recreation and sport), the Children's Movement Groups of Jan Möhr Secondary School and the Windhoek International School, the Katutura Community Arts Centre, and the parents' committee of the Resource Centre. Each

organisation comes at least once a week and assists the children with homework, maths, reading, drama, sports, art, and gardening.

Looking toward the future, NAWA and IWAN hope to expand the number of children who can attend the Resource Centre and provide the program with a more permanent base through the next phase in the building project. NAWA donated the plot of land adjacent to the Jakob Marengo School and IWAN found funding for the development of architectural drawings and preparatory work on the site. The partners are searching for additional funding to make this dream a reality and to continue supporting the after school care and education of vulnerable children in Katutura. The RC will be a model for setting up similar facilities nationwide. Interested organizations/companies who want to support our Centre can contact Ms. Anita Bijman at [ResourceCentre@iwan.com.na](mailto:ResourceCentre@iwan.com.na).

### **About IWAN**

The International Women's Association Namibia (IWAN) is a social organization for women living in Namibia, predominantly in the capital, Windhoek. IWAN is a non-profit, non-religious, apolitical association and women of all nationalities are eligible to join. Its aim is to offer support to newcomers to Namibia, to provide assistance to members, and to help various charitable groups in whatever way they are able. More information about IWAN and RC is available at [www.iwan.com.na](http://www.iwan.com.na) or contact Rachel Schmidt, IWAN's press representative at [PressRep@iwan.com.na](mailto:PressRep@iwan.com.na)