

# »» Project Information

Implemented by:



## Higher education – Namibia

Expanding university capacities for Namibian engineers

As part of its "Vision 2030", the Namibian government seeks to push forward the process of transformation that turns the country into an industrialised nation. The expansion of transportation and infrastructure are key factors in achieving this objective. However, there is a shortage of qualified labour in these areas. For this reason, KfW Development Bank is promoting, on behalf of the German Federal Government, the expansion of the University of Namibia's (UNAM) José Eduardo dos Santos Campus in Ongwediva in the north of the country. Through the setup of the department of civil and environmental engineering, training capacities are created for much-needed engineers, specifically in the transport sector. This furthermore improves the university's overall studying conditions. On a larger scale, the support of a university outside the Windhoek region further contributes to Namibia's decentralisation process, spurring the country's economic and social development.

merely possesses less than a quarter of the national road network. Due to that, the northern population suffers from a chronically limited access to markets, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and administrative offices. In order to counteract, the Namibian government has launched a reform programme to overhaul the transport sector in the late 1990s. This in turn made the second obstacle apparent: a shortage of skilled labour. Seeking to improve the country's infrastructure through the reformation of the transport sector requires qualified labour, engineers in particular. According to current estimates, Namibia will face a deficit of over 1,000 qualified engineers by 2030.

<b>Project name</b>	Expansion of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at the University of Namibia (UNAM), José Eduardo dos Santos Campus, Ongwediva
<b>Commissioned by</b>	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Country/Region</b>	Namibia, Oshana
<b>Lead executing agency</b>	Republic of Namibia

### Context

Namibia is undergoing a period of drastic change. As set out in its "Vision 2030" strategy paper, the Namibian government states its intention to combat poverty and transform the country into an industrialised nation in the long run. There are, however, two major obstacles which need to be overcome in order to shape a progressive society. One of them is the centralised social and economic activity in the region around Windhoek, Namibia's capital. Despite the fact that over 60% of the population live in the northern part of the country, which accounts for about a third of Namibia's territory, it





Students undergoing practical training. Source: Dr Rolf Baur, UNAM.

### Project approach

This is where KfW Development Bank gets involved on behalf of the German Federal Government by helping to fund the expansion of the faculty of engineering at the José Eduardo dos Santos Campus Ongwediva of the University of Namibia (UNAM). UNAM's faculty of engineering and information technology is located in the densely populated north of Namibia, away from the country's centre. Construction work began in 2008 and is divided into five stages. The first stage was completed in July 2010 and comprised the construction of the mechanical and industrial engineering department including university-affiliated infrastructure, e.g. student residences. The second stage will comprise the construction of two further departments – mining technology and metallurgical engineering as well as the electronics and computer engineering. The third stage will include a telecommunications and electrical engineering department. In close cooperation with the Namibian government, KfW Development Bank is financing stage IV of the project: expanding the civil and environmental engineering department. The main emphasis will be placed on training engineers to work in the fields of transport technology and transport logistics. This project is primarily targeting Namibia's secondary school graduates. Moreover, graduates from neighbouring states are also supposed to benefit, thus fostering regional integration among the countries of Southern Africa. The total construction costs of the fourth stage are estimated at around EUR 15 million, of which EUR 8 million are financed through FC funds. GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft

für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) is supporting the project with EUR 0.7 million, which is used to equip laboratories and to fund academic exchange programmes. Furthermore, the project will include the construction of much-needed student residences and a cafeteria for which the German development cooperation has allocated an additional EUR 5 million. UNAM is functioning as principal and project-executing agent. The focus on educating engineers in the sectors of transport and infrastructure implies a sustainable contribution towards the expansion of the Namibian road network. These investments have been a priority for the German-Namibian cooperation for a long time.

### Impact

Currently, 295 students are enrolled at the UNAM's facilities in Ongwediva, among them 109 civil engineers. It is hoped that the project will help to raise the number of engineering students in the field of transport and logistics from currently 29 per academic year to 40 and eventually 60 in the long run. Furthermore, it is planned that at least 60% of the students at the faculty will come from low-income families. After the completion of stage V (material science, chemistry, and biomedical engineering), the campus will be capable of accommodating up to 1000 students, including 250 civil engineers. The students can obtain a four-year bachelor's degree (BSc), which qualifies them for a master's degree programme (MSc) and thereafter for doctoral studies (PhD). Aside of the improvements in learning conditions at the Ongwediva Campus, the project is increasing the university's capacities for engineers, thus counteracting the lack of qualified labour.



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