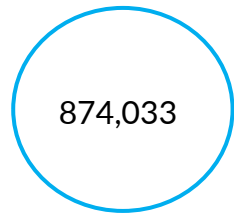




WHO COVID-19 Bulletin: 2021 Highlights

Situation Update



874,033

Tested



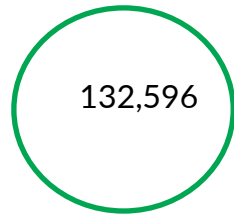
149,478

Confirmed



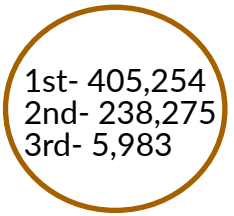
13,213

Active



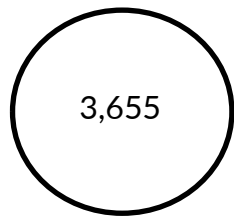
132,596

Recovered



1st- 405,254
2nd- 238,275
3rd- 5,983

**Vaccination
1st, 2nd & 3rd
doses**



3,655

Deaths



Leadership



- The President of the Republic of Namibia, HE Dr Hage Geingob, made a strong call towards vaccine equity during one of WHO's daily press briefing on 6 April.
- Namibia received her first COVID-19 Vaccine through COVAX on 16 April.
- Country has received more than 1.7 million doses to date and of these 108,000 are through the COVAX facility. The rest were donations and bilateral procurement.
- WHO continue to provide leadership and coordination of the UN COVID-19 response in support of the Government of Namibia

Pillar 1: Country Coordination, Planning, and Monitoring

- Finalized the COVID-19 Resurgence Plan and the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.
- Conducted National and Regional Intra-Action Reviews.
- Established Regional Rapid Response Teams in all 14 regions and provided training of trainers to the teams.
- Mobilized additional experts to respond to the pandemic, including the Omicron variant.



Pillar 2. Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Reached an estimated 80% of the Namibian population through the Get Vaccinated! Help Kick COVID-19 Out of Namibia mass communication campaign
- Reached approximately 10% households in rural areas and informal settlements through house-to-house communication and community outreaches
- Mobilized regional political and traditional leadership to support vaccination rollout in their constituencies.



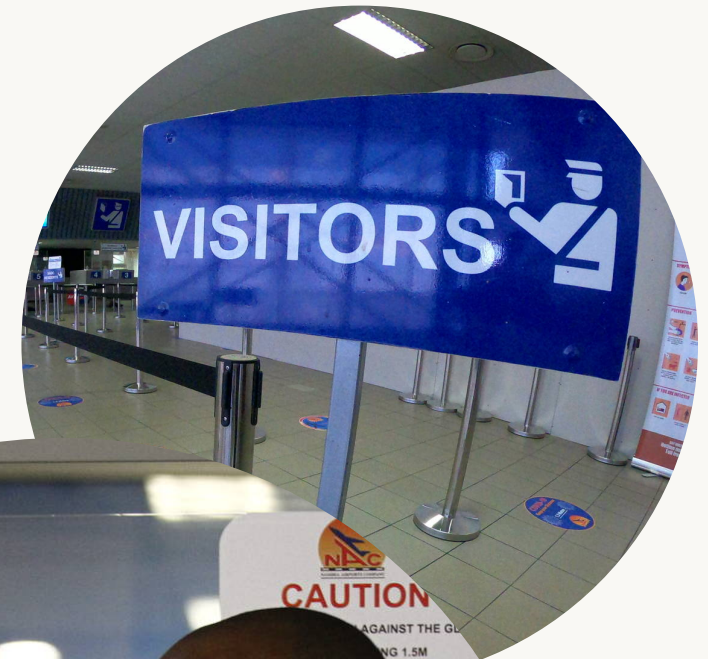
Pillar 3: Surveillance and Case Investigation

- Go.Data implemented in four regions, Erongo, Otjozondjupa, Khomas, and Karas.
- Strengthened the management of data through the Public Health Emergency Operation Center (PHEOC).



Pillar 4: Points of entry

- Launched the Trusted Travel System for the Points of Entry and trained MoHSS staff and other stakeholders on the system.
- Government will implement the system at all points of entries from 15 January 2022.



Pillar 5: Laboratory Coordination

- Strengthening Namibia's COVID-19 Genomic Sequencing with focus on Omicron testing and data management through a team of WHO experts from the Regional Office for Africa. The team conducted situation analysis of SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance capacities and data management processes and provided key recommendations and follow up actions.
- Over 120 laboratory staff, program managers and health workers participated in the WHO online training course on COVID-19 Ag-RDT testing
- 45 health workers from Hardap and Kunene regions were trained on Antigen RDT testing.
- Supported the development of the national Antigen Rapid Test (Ag-RDT) Guideline, the national guideline on COVID-19 Genomic surveillance and the national COVID-19 Testing Strategy amongst others
- WHO donated the following items to the MoHSS for the COVID-19 response: 109,600 swabs and transport media, 3500 Genexpert tests, 3260 PCR-based tests for testing of COVID-19 variants.
- WHO also donated antibody rapid tests for the vaccine effectiveness study among health workers.



Pillar 6: Case Management

- **Increased oxygen generating capacity at health facilities:** During the third wave of the pandemic, health facilities were faced with insufficient oxygen supply due to low generating capacity of their oxygen plants and increased demand due to high numbers of hospitalized COVID-19 cases.
- Majority of the health facilities had oxygen plants with a generating capacity as low as 25litres/min. After the third wave, oxygen plants at a number of hospitals (Windhoek Central Hospital as well as Katutura, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay State Hospitals) have been upgraded to a generating capacity of up to 400l/min.



- Case Management Capacity building: 7 senior doctors from MOHSS attended a Basic Critical Care training course in Johannesburg South Africa with support from WHO Regional Office for Africa. Upon completion of the training, the doctors are cascading the skills to HCWs in lower health facilities.
- 250 frontline healthcare workers from 10 regions were trained on the management of severe and critical cases of COVID-19 by the UK-EMT during their deployment in the country.
- WHO supported the establishment of the National Emergency Management Team (EMT) for Namibia. Seven Health Care Workers attended the Regional EMT training held in Uganda 27th Nov-4th December 2021. This was followed by an in- country EMT training attended by 23 HCW.

Case Management continue





Pillar 7: Infection Prevention and Control

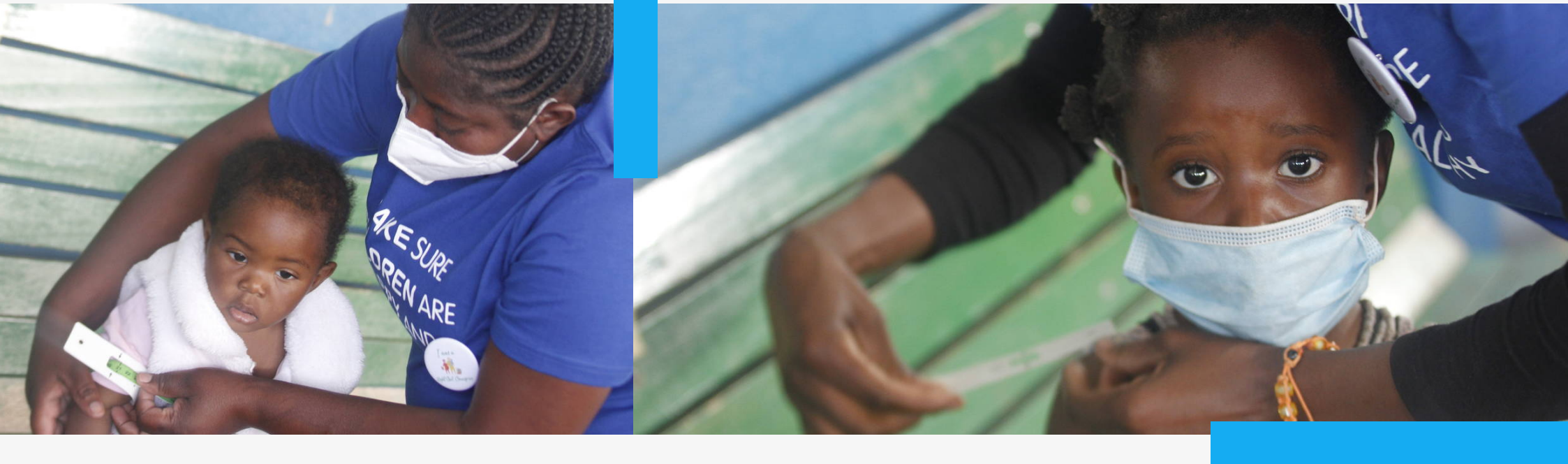
- Conducted an IPC Facility readiness assessment in 49 Health Facilities in 13 regions.
- Reviewed the IPC Standard Operating Procedures and the COVID-19 IPC training curriculum.
- Printed IPC communication materials for health facilities.
-
- Conducted trainings for health workers in the !Kharas and Hardap Regions.



Pillar 8: Operation and Support, Logistics

WHO donated supplies and equipment to the Government of Namibia worth NAD 21,321,035.16 to strengthen laboratory services, case management, surveillance and data management.

Pillar 9: Essential Health Services



- Conducted Supportive Supervision to Kavango East, Kunene and Erongo Regions to assess the implementation level of the Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illnesses and Pre-Testing of the draft WHO adapted tool for Continuation of Essential Health Services.
- Adapted WHO Continuity of essential health services facility assessment tool.
- Produced and translated a radio jingle to promote continuation of essential health services during Covid-19 pandemic in eight languages, namely English, Afrikaans, Otjiherero, Damara>Nama, Oshiwambo, Rukwangali, Lozi and Setswana. This was aired on the Namibia Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) radio stations from 1 November-31 December 2021.



Pillar 10: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

- Social workers provided psycho-social support to COVID-19 patients in the Respiratory Units and their close relatives especially during the 3rd wave. This included counselling, acting as liaisons between patients and their relatives, providing updates to relatives on the progress of patients. They would record short messages from patients to share with family members. Also recruited student psychological counsellors to receive food parcels and other essentials on behalf of the patients from relatives.
- Recruited additional social workers to support the response and address staff shortages experienced especially at the Windhoek Central Hospital, Katutura Intermediate Hospital and remote areas.



Pillar 11: COVID-19 Vaccination

- National COVID-19 Vaccination Deployment Plan is in place and under review.
- More than 20% of the eligible population received both doses of the COVID vaccine.
- Over 600,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered for 1st, 2nd and booster doses since April 2021.
- Introduced a booster dose for AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, Pfizer and J&J in November 2021.
- WHO provided NAD 4.1 million to 11 regions to strengthen the rollout of COVID-19 vaccination in these regions.
- Developed SOPs for all COVID-19 vaccines including adapting the training modules from the WHO guidelines.
- 120 Health Care workers from all 14 regions were trained on the roll out of AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, Pfizer and J&J vaccines.
- Provided on the job mentorship to 17 health districts at vaccination sites.



Partners in the COVID-19 Response



UNAM
UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA



Would like to note contributions from other development partners, private and public institutions.

A person wearing a blue cap and a light blue face mask is seated at a table. They are wearing a dark blue polo shirt with a logo on the chest. On the table in front of them is a clear plastic spray bottle with a red label, a white cup, and several papers or cards. The person appears to be engaged in a task, possibly related to health or community work. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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