



11 April 2017

Attention: The News Editor

MEDIA RELEASE

NCRST and NAFIN sign memorandum of understanding

The National Commission for Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) and the Namibia Alliance for Improved Nutrition (NAFIN) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) towards undertaking a Survey to determine the Nutrition Status of San Infants in Namibia. The survey will be undertaken in 3 regions, namely Omaheke, Oshikoto and Otjozondjupa.

NAFIN is a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and non-profit association striving to promote good nutrition, especially among the children below the age of five years. NAFIN received disturbing reports of acute malnutrition among the children of a San community living around Drimiopsis in Omaheke Region. Thus, NAFIN envisaged a study to assess and understand the health and nutrition situation amongst the San population within Namibia, and to determine whether the San population has high or low cases of acute malnutrition as compared to other indigenous groups in Namibia.

The survey will be carried out in collaboration with relevant Ministries and Regional Authorities over a period of one year and six months. The goal is to cover significant sections of the target communities within the given time frame. The survey cover issues such as attendance of San expecting mothers to ante-natal clinics, anaemia prevalence among expecting mothers; weight at birth of San babies; supplementary feeding of San babies; housing and sanitation; de-worming of San children; infant mortality in San communities and maternal health among others.

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The Total project budget is N\$ 502 793, and the NCRST is providing co-funding to the value of N\$100 000 towards the project.

The NCRST will provide resources through the Research, Science and Technology Fund for co-funding of planned collaborative efforts; manage the research and development grant in line with Grant Management rules and guidelines of the Research, Science and Technology Fund; and provide technical assistance were possible to the NAFIN.

The agreement was signed by Dr Eino Mvula, Chief Executive Officer of NCRST and Hon Nahas Angula, convener of NAFIN.

“Ends”

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