THE NATIONAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE FOR WOMEN - 2020

T he National Innovation Challenge on Research, Science and Technology (NICRST) is a Public Enterprise, tasked to coordinate, develop and promote Research, Science, Technology and Innovation in Namibia. As part of its mandate, the NICRST runs several innovation financing programs, of which is the National Innovation Challenge for Women (NCW). The NCW programme is a business acceleration programme which serves as platform for shared research, development and commercialisation. This programme is purposely designed to be gender-responsive by supporting female innovators and entrepreneurs with promising innovations to accelerate them into fully-fledged businesses that can have immediate economic and social impact. Since its inception in 2017, the NCW programme has benefited more than 100 female innovators and entrepreneurs. The NCW is facilitated by StartUp Namibia through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the German government.

This is through its initiatives focussed at improving access to financial services for start-ups, such as provision of start-up capital and growth financing. Improved access to financial information and funding will enable medium and large businesses to expand, develop and stay competitive in the performance of start-ups. The 2020 season of the NCW programme aims to provide support to 40 female innovators by providing them with solid training in Business Innovation, Business Modelling, Business Strategy Development, Financial Management, and Intellectual Property Protection, amongst others.

Below are the business profiles of 18 finalists that were selected to progress to phase II of the NCW programme, through an online business pitching event. These ladies will be attending face-to-face business training sessions in November and October 2021, as part of which national winners will be selected to receive prizes in the form of seed funding and incubation services to catapult their businesses to success.

---

**Albertina MP Itana**
Northern Pathology Services

**Benita Nakaambwa**
Nitha’s Manufacturing

**Hermine Bertolin**
Ann Paps: Ann’s Journey to Women

**Hilja Shatona**
WEEE Recycle cc

**Kuku Angula**
Steel Leathers

**La-Toya Shivute**
EcoStoic Seafood

**Leena Naftal**
LN Recycle Studio

**Leena Sindano**
Chavendo Chawinga

**Loide Shipingana**
Magfisstegi Thembani Farm CC

**Magreth Taushe**
Eheden Manufacturers CC

**Meke Namindo**
Mekienicient

**Ndeshigeva Hamatu**
Valobomba NSVP Scientific CC

**Naxia Mwape Mwala**
Lapuda Pure and Natural Products

**Samantha Matjila**
Didiclit Beauty Products

**Selvia C. Gowases**
T'Brownies

**T'Loa Shona**
Cheen's Clean Energy Solutions

**Toola Camanya**
T'Brownies

**Tulilechega Hembango**
GoodMorning Trading cc

---

**National Innovation Challenge for Women**

"Catalyzing women - retooling our economy"