

## **Bio – Ben Schernick, NAFSAN Director** (Dec.'23)

Ben Schernick is a registered social worker, court-accredited mediator, trainer, facilitator and consultant, with in-depth experiences as a study-guide writer and part-time lecturer. Originally from Germany, he started dealing with different forms of conflict and violence, first as police detective in Berlin and later as a social worker.



Since 2006, he works in Namibia as freelance facilitator and consultant with a variety of organisations and communities on issues relating to conflict resolution, gender-based violence, effective and non-violent communication, teambuilding, participatory decision making, leadership development, change processes and stakeholder dialogues. In 2014, he completed his [MA in Conflict Facilitation and Organizational Change](#) (*'Process-oriented Psychology'*).

Since 2018, he managed the process of establishing a Namibian [Civil Society Alliance](#) for the [global Scaling Up Nutrition \(SUN\) movement](#), hereby navigating the [transition from the Namibian Alliance for Improved Nutrition \(NAFIN\)](#) to the [Nutrition and Food Security Alliance of Namibia \(NAFSAN\)](#), where he serves as NAFSAN's founding Director, since 2020.

Among the materials that he developed is the ['Namibia National Training Resource Kit on Gender Based Violence'](#) [2018], ['The Digital Dance – Parenting in an Online World'](#) [2020], [Namibia's 'National Parenting Manual & Facilitators' Guide'](#) [2023], and ['Nutrition-for-Health: Embracing our Namibian Food Systems'](#) [2023].

The strong connection between access to adequate nutrition, [early childhood development](#) and a country's overall socio-economic development is of great importance to him, and since 2016, he enjoys the joys and challenges of [fatherhood and intercultural parenting](#); and in a voluntary capacity, he is a senior facilitator with the [Alternatives to Violence Project](#) and serves as co-clerk of the [Namibian Quaker Community](#).