

MOZAMBIQUE

COL activities in 2003-2006

BACKGROUND

Mozambique has been an active member country and partner with COL in the promotion of open and distance learning (ODL). COL has worked closely with the Mozambique government and institutional representatives in planning and building ODL capacity.

SUMMARY

In the period 2003-2006 Mozambique has made progress on a number of levels by working in partnership with COL and other countries. It has made advances in strategic planning for its ODL systems and in improving teacher training. Delegates from Mozambique have also attended a number of international events which have facilitated exchange of experience and best practice.

POLICY AND SYSTEMS ENHANCEMENT

Working in Partnership to Strengthen National Systems

To help galvanise Mozambique's national ODL strategy, COL conducted a short training/orientation programme for senior managers. COL won a World Bank-funded contract to design, co-ordinate and deliver – in collaboration with Mozambique's Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology and its Distance Education Task Force (CIINED) and addressing their defined needs – a nine-month, full time course in Training and Professional Development in Distance Education. Held in Maputo, it was attended by representatives from key organisations and institutions, including the two Education Ministries, Eduardo Mondlane University, Universidade Pedagógica (Pedagogical University), the Higher Polytechnic and University Institute (ISPU); the Academy of Police Sciences (ACIPOL), the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of State Administration. The programme's objective was to equip a core, supportive group of practitioners and administrators with the knowledge and skills to assess ongoing ODL needs from a broader perspective, and to implement ODL strategies and systems in the long term.

With World Bank funding, COL and the South African Institute for Distance Education (SAIDE) consortium jointly designed and delivered an ODL capacity building training programme for 50 Mozambicans selected by the task force in preparation for the establishment of Mozambique's new National Institute for Distance Education (INED).

Improving Teacher Training

A Roundtable on Quality Assurance was held in April 2005 in Abuja. The theme was "Quality Issues in the use of ICT for Teacher Education." The Roundtable was inaugurated by Hajjia Bintu Ibrahim, Minister of State for Education, Federal Government of Nigeria. More than 25 participants from seven countries, including Mozambique, attended the Roundtable. The Roundtable examined the merits of a range of technologies, from radio and interactive radio to internet, for pre-service and in-service teacher training. It also identified quality criteria in the use of different technologies. Outputs include a document on criteria for assuring quality in the application of ICT for teacher development.

Mozambique is one of the eight Southern African countries which has agreed to work with COL on a five-year distance education project to train upper primary and junior secondary teachers and administrators in Science, Technology and Mathematics (STAMP 200+) (for more details of STAMP+ see regional summary for Africa).

Police Training

ACIPOL, Mozambique's Police College, is developing distance learning courses that can be used to continue the training of police officers once they have finished their basic training. COL has conducted on the job training with the course writing teams.

Open Schooling

Mozambique is taking part in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) e-schools initiative (for more details of the initiative see Africa regional summary).

COL convened an international symposium on the application of multimedia to the schooling sector of the education system. The symposium was designed to bring together institutions from Africa, South and Southeast Asia that are using satellite broadcasting to support the school system. Participants included African countries involved with the NEPAD e-Schools Demonstrator Project of which Mozambique was one.

Mozambique participated in the Forum on Open Schooling for Secondary Education in Botswana in October 2004. The aim of the event was to raise awareness and advocate for the establishment of open schools in the Sub-Saharan region.

The Increasing Access to Secondary School Level Education through the production of Quality Learning Materials was initiated at a meeting organised by COL, which was attended by senior Ministry of Education officials and heads of distance education institutions from a number of Sub-Saharan countries

in the Commonwealth. Through the project, ODL materials on English, Mathematics and Science at the junior secondary school level were produced. Mozambique is a partner in this initiative.

With funding from the British Department for International Development, COL and the Ministry of Education, Mozambique, launched a pilot project in Secondary Education through Distance Education, providing opportunities for about 1000 teenagers in rural districts in Nampula province to resume their learning. Extension of the project is now being considered by the national authorities.

Working with Regional Partners

COL has been supporting the Distance Education Association of Southern Africa (DEASA) in its work supporting ODL developments in the region. Mozambique was represented at the, COL-supported, advocacy meeting in March 2005 where Permanent Secretaries and Senior Education Officials were briefed about ODL and DEASA's programme.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mozambique was represented at the "International Literacy and Livelihoods Experts Meeting: Learning for Life in a Changing World" which was held in Vancouver in November 2004.

In October 2004, Singapore hosted the fourth out of a series of five Management Development Institutes. A total of 20 teacher educators from Sub-Saharan Africa participated. These included two teacher educators from Mozambique.

COL sponsored a delegate from Mozambique to attend the 3rd Pan Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning held in partnership with Distance Education Association of New Zealand (DEANZ) in Dunedin, New Zealand in July 2004.

COL hosted Dr. Arnaldo Nhavoto, Distance Education Task Force Coordinator, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, for three months under the Executive Secondment Programme.

LOOKING FORWARD

Mozambique will continue to build on the progress it has made in 2003-2006 in partnership with COL and other countries. Strengthening national systems, improving teacher training and developing open schooling will continue to be important themes for the next planning period 2006-2009.