



## CABO VERDE

# Empowering youth for change

### ■ CONTEXT

Cabo Verde is a small archipelagic country with almost half a million habitants, predominantly young people. The island state faces various challenges such as limited natural resources, high youth unemployment, a dispersed population and limited growth sectors. Within this context, the Government initiated a series of reforms to increase the competitiveness of the country, modernize the public administration and build an entrepreneurial foundation for a competitive and dynamic private sector. In order to empower youth, develop their entrepreneurial competencies and enhance their potential to generate employment, the Government adopted the Entrepreneurship Curriculum Programme (ECP).

### ■ STRATEGY

In September of 2014, 2,500 secondary students began their school year with a novelty: a new subject was to be taught for two hours per week: entrepreneurship. The Ministry of Education and Sports (MED), in partnership with UNIDO and with the support of the Government of Portugal, introduced entrepreneurship for students in first and second cycles of secondary general and technical education (grades 9 to 12).

The Entrepreneurship Curriculum Programme will be implemented in 12 selected pilot schools, with 100 teachers estimated to participate in in-service teacher

### ■ PROJECT OVERVIEW

**Goal:** Creating an Entrepreneurial Foundation for a Dynamic and Competitive Private Sector

**Partner:** Ministry of Education and Sports

**Donor:** Portugal, UNIDO

**Budget:** USD 723,181

**Duration:** 2014-2016



training. Approximately 3,500 graduates are projected. A national roll-out of the programme is scheduled to start in 2016.

The entrepreneurship curriculum will be action-oriented, with practical training comprising 60% of the course. Teachers will act as facilitators, responsible for creating diverse educational opportunities so that students are able to transpose classroom taught concepts to real-life situations. In addition, the curriculum will be implemented in collaboration with local private sector companies and the community.

Partnerships with a number of companies and private sector associations are currently being forged to maximize support and ensure the sustainability of the programme. In addition, teacher training workshops have benefitted from the help of a co-trainer from the Ministry of Education (MED) of Angola, a country which has already tested and

successfully implemented ECP, while Brazil also intends to provide experts in support of the programme. Cabo Verde is presently benefiting from the experiences and lessons of successful programmes in other countries such as Mozambique, Uganda, Namibia and Angola.



## ■ RESULTS

- Entrepreneurship teaching began in September 2014, for grades 9 to 12
- The programme covers 12 schools across six islands
- 2,493 students are enrolled in the entrepreneurship course, 54% of them female
- 91 teachers have been trained to teach entrepreneurship, 48% of them female
- In addition, school directors, pedagogical inspectors and central Ministry staff were trained
- Entrepreneurship curriculum materials for grades 9, 10 and 12 are ready for pilot testing

***“Entrepreneurship is about acquiring basic skills to improve our environment and our capacity for individual growth”***

*Mrs. Fernanda Marques, Minister of Education and Sports*

***“Entrepreneurship is an attitude that should be encouraged at a young age, and this is what this programme is doing”***

*Mr. Bernardo Lucena, Ambassador of Portugal*

***“It is rewarding to be able to share what I have learned, and at the same time continue to learn from my colleagues. I am happy to be part of the entrepreneurship network”***

*Mr. Pedro Fernandes, Coordinator for teacher training in the Ministry of Education of Angola, trained by UNIDO*

***“Entrepreneurship is about managing our life to correspond to our dreams”***

*Mr. Christophe dos Santos, IT Entrepreneur*



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