



MOZAMBIQUE

Investing in a new generation

■ CONTEXT

Mozambique has been enjoying impressive growth rates, albeit with an over-reliance on coal and aluminum exports. Mining mega-projects and natural gas investments are expanding dynamically. Yet, domestic small and medium-sized enterprises lag far behind and require human resources with the capacity to leverage this growth, especially in rural areas where over 60% of the population lives. Out of Mozambique's total population of 25 million, more than 13 million are below the age of 18 and still in the process of developing the skills and knowledge for their future careers and livelihoods. To address this situation, the Government of Mozambique embarked on an ambitious education plan to better prepare young people for entrepreneurial activities and trigger a nationwide bottom-up economic growth process to reduce poverty.

■ STRATEGY

In 2007, the Ministry of Education and Culture introduced the Entrepreneurship Curriculum Programme (ECP) in secondary and vocational schools throughout the country, with technical assistance from UNIDO and funding from the Government of Norway. The aim of the programme was to encourage the development of entrepreneurial attitudes, skills and knowledge amongst youth, to enable them to generate their own income, create and find jobs, and contribute to the economic growth of the country.



■ PROJECT OVERVIEW

Goal: Entrepreneurship Development for Youth

Partner: Ministry of Education and Culture

Donor: Norway

Budget: USD 2,7 million

Duration: 2007-2013

In Mozambique, secondary school is divided into two cycles: lower secondary (grades 8 to 10) and upper secondary (grades 11 and 12). Entrepreneurship was introduced as a stand-alone subject in grades 9 to 12, for two hours a week. In lower secondary, it became a mandatory course, while in senior secondary it is offered as an elective. Examinations for both levels are carried out by the National Institute for Educational Development (INDE). UNIDO assisted the Government in developing

an entrepreneurship curriculum with syllabi, teacher guides, textbooks, monitoring and evaluation tools, as well as assessment guidelines, in addition to introducing the programme in schools. Through practical activities, students learn how to identify businesses opportunities with growth potential in their communities and how to mobilize local resources. Students also learn, in theory

and in practice, how to set up and manage a business and make savings. They learn to better express their ideas, develop realistic projects and structure them in a logic manner, address challenges and risks, and to work together as a team. Parents and teachers of ECP students have noted increases in self-confidence, initiative and responsibility.



RESULTS

- 331 schools are currently implementing the programme
- 1,654 teachers have been trained, 21% of them female
- 496,400 students have taken the course, 47% of them female
- 127,800 students had graduated by 2013, 45% of them female
- Students from rural and urban areas show equal commitment to the course
- 85% of students have acquired entrepreneurial skills
- 255 university instructors have been trained to train pre-service teachers
- 1,221 pre-service teachers have been trained, 40% of them female
- Equal representation between boys and girls in starting small business activities
- The Ministry of Education and Culture has integrated ECP into its formal national education strategy

“By developing technical and behavioural competencies, entrepreneurship helps young people to better integrate into the labour market, create self-employment opportunities or continue their studies. It is a way to defeat poverty and develop the country with sustainability and inclusiveness.”

Leda Florinda Hugo, Minister of Education

“We learned in school how important it is to save and invest, and to produce good quality. I rather redo my products if they are not good enough. Clients pay well for good quality and reliable service.”

Acacio, 19 year student and carpenter in the remote district of Ilha de Mocambique

“I am constantly thinking of new ideas because I want to expand my businesses and make a contribution to my community. I try to find out what people in my area need, prepare a business plan and make savings to start. I am proud of being a businessman and I like my work”

David, 22, a young graduate from Nampula with three small businesses



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