NAMIBIA

Entrepreneurial youth for prosperity

CONTEXT

Namibia is a large country in southern Africa, bordering the Atlantic Ocean. The Namibian economy is heavily dependent on the extraction and processing of minerals for export, but also on earnings generated from fisheries, livestock and meat production. Although the country has maintained a track record of relatively consistent economic growth, it continues to experience poverty, unemployment and inequality. In 2013, unemployment amounted to over 29%, with 41% of those aged between 15 and 24 without work. Moreover, there is a 50% youth drop-out rate from junior secondary schools. Within this context, the Government of Namibia introduced the Entrepreneurship Curriculum Programme (ECP) to foster entrepreneurial knowledge, skills and attitudes amongst youth; to enable them to generate their own income; to create jobs for themselves and for others; and to contribute to the development of a competitive private sector as a whole.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Goal:	Promoting Entrepreneurship Amongst Youth
Partner:	Ministry of Education
Donor:	Korea, UNIDO
Budget:	USD 320,000
Duration:	Phase 1: 2006-2011 Phase 2: 20014-2015

STRATEGY

In 2005, the Ministry of Education of Namibia began rallying support for the introduction of an entrepreneurship curriculum into its secondary education system, for junior (grades 8 to 10) and senior (grades 11 and 12) levels.

The National Institute of Educational Development (NIED) worked in collaboration with a hybrid of partners — donors, academia, private sector institutions and international non-governmental organizations — to develop and introduce an entrepreneurship curriculum to the country's education system. UNIDO assisted the NIED in developing and testing entrepreneurship syllabi, teacher guides and assessment manuals, in addition to conducting in-service teacher training workshops, while private publishers prepared student textbooks.

The entrepreneurship curriculum follows a spiral design, through which students are encouraged to adopt entrepreneurial attitudes, coached to identify business opportunities within their communities and taught how

to manage a small business. The entrepreneurship course also integrates cross-cutting issues such as gender and HIV/AIDS, ensuring environmental sustainability and maximizing the use of information, communication and technology for business.

The first phase of ECP implementation covered junior secondary schools. A pilot was launched in 2006 for seven schools and, in 2008, the curriculum was introduced to junior secondary schools country-wide. Entrepreneurship replaced Business Management as a stand-alone elective, to be nationally examinable by the Directorate of National Examinations and Assessment (DNEA). In addition, entrepreneurship was simultaneously integrated into several practical courses in senior primary schools (grades 5 to 7).

The second phase of implementation focused on senior secondary schools. During the course of 2014, four schools introduced entrepreneurship as a stand-alone elective, with a national roll-out scheduled for 2016.

RESULTS

- By 2010, the entrepreneurship curriculum was being implemented in all junior secondary schools across the country
- In 2013, entrepreneurship was included in 624 schools (out of 633) offering the National Junior Secondary Certificate examination (at the end of grade 10)
- About 1,000 teachers are teaching entrepreneurship across 624 secondary schools across the country
- 4 senior secondary schools are piloting entrepreneurship curriculum
- In 2013, an evaluation study conducted by the Namibia Association of Norway (NAMAS) established that students enrolled in entrepreneurship displayed more motivation and greater likelihood to succeed in their studies. It also concluded that those taking the course tended to be engaged in entrepreneurial activities at school and at home, even after completion (or drop-out) of school

"The importance of making my own money – it gives me a sense of discipline, of knowing that this money I have worked for and also to show my fellow youth that nothing is impossible – really one can start something and make a good living out of it."

Geerson Tjizumaue, Entrepreneur/Graduate JG v/d Walt School, Okahandja, Namibia.

"The teachers had to change their mindsets – to be an entrepreneur teacher, you need to work with practical activities, you need to be learner-centered, really learner-centered, and you need to prepare a lot."

Susanne Willemina Wannberg, Head of NIED, Namibia

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 300, 1400 Vienna, Austria
Telephone: (+43-1) 26026-0, Fax: (+43-1) 26926-69
E-mail: unido@unido.org, Internet: www.unido.org