

Laying the foundation

Enhancing the Zambian education sector with ICT

With assistance of the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) and the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), the Ministry of Education of Zambia developed a draft ICT Policy and a draft National Implementation Framework for ICT (2007 to 2010). The overall goal is to enhance the access to quality teaching and learning at all educational levels from basic to tertiary institutions and further to benefit by learning new skills and teaching methods.

Implementation Plan

As a follow-up to the draft ICT Policy for Education the draft National ICT Implementation Framework including objectives, activities and budget were developed by the Zambian Ministry of Education (MOE) and assisted by IICD and the Commonwealth of Learning. The ICT Implementation Plan has been assembled through a series of interactions with the Ministry Directorates and other stakeholders under the general direction of the MOE ICT Steering Committee. Many of the activities can be implemented in a straightforward manner and provide rapid benefits, others lay the foundation on which the full ICT Policy can be implemented in the coming years.

Building capacity

The Ministry's overarching goal of the ICT Implementation Plan is to enhance the access to quality teaching and learning at all educational levels; moreover to become more efficient, effective and transparent in management and administration of the education system. To reach these targets, all staff members of the Ministry of Education and all teachers, students and institutional staff of governmental institutions will be trained in ICT literacy and its application for their daily working life.

The implementation plan also considers curricula for various levels of computer-literacy for basic and secondary schools, as well as Colleges of Education and Universities. Consequently students and teachers will be able to master skills in computer literacy and its applications such as composing documents, internet searching, e-mail use and creating simple databases. This



With the implementation of the ICT plan, students and teachers learn to master skills in computer applications .

means that students gain life long ICT skills that increase their chances in their careers, both in school and on the job market.

Computer labs

In order to effectively build the capacity of teachers, students and institutional staff, over 1200 computer labs will be put in place. These computer labs will be established in all schools and consist of either 20 or 30 PCs and other accessories. These labs will be maintained by well-trained technicians.

New educational material

Another aspect of the implementation is distance education. This consists of multiple aspects: the digitalisation of the curriculum and syllabi of all subjects for all levels. The digitised curricula, syllabi and learning materials will be put online so that all schools have access to and can use the materials.

A second part of distance education is the development and implementation of an interactive distance education programme for



continuous education of in-service basic and high-school teachers including an on-line tutoring by the National Universities and Colleges of Education.

An important part of the implementation plan is also the development of educative material for basic and high school students and their family members on specific themes such as educational norms on school-enrolment and non-attendance, gender, AIDS and others. Moreover for students with special needs particular hard-and software will be identified and deployed.

Assisting in the process

IICD can assist Ministries, governmental and non-governmental agencies and entities in developing and implementing ICT policies and strategies by providing strategic advice and capacity building. Over its ten years of existence, IICD has built a strong expertise in education and ICT. IICD can provide individual and institutional advise, as well as capacity building in the development and deployment of content using ICT.

In Zambia, IICD has already worked together with education partners in projects such as the Mpelembe Secondary School. In this project the Mpelembe Secondary School coordinates together with six other schools the visualisation and digitalisation of content of existing and newly created teaching materials. This material is being visualised in the classroom and the students are benefiting a lot from this new approach in teaching. Other beneficiaries include schools in the vicinity. An important and integral part of this project is the dissemination of these

materials to other schools in order to enhance their teaching and learning as well. So far more than 8000 students and more than 300 teachers were reached.

Teachers train teachers

The Mpelembe Secondary School project as well as the other educational projects IICD is supporting are focusing strongly on capacity building of teachers and institutional staff. The impact of this capacity building approach is that these teachers have the knowledge and skills to train their colleagues and students. This approach can also be applied in the Ministry's implementation. Partners of IICD that have received capacity building can provide further assistance to neighbouring schools and teaching institutions as wells share their expertise, experiences and educational content.

With the right tools, people in developing countries can considerably improve their livelihoods and quality of life. Better access to information and communication technology (ICT) is particularly vital in enabling them to achieve their goals. This is why the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) creates practical and sustainable solutions that connect people and enable them to benefit from ICT. As an independent not-for-profit foundation, we put knowledge, innovation and finance to work with partners from the public, private and not-for profit sectors. Together, we can make a world of difference.

IICD is active in Africa, Latin-America and the Caribbean, where we create and enhance development opportunities in education, good governance, livelihoods, health and the environment. Our approach includes linking local, national and international organisations as well as formulating and implementing ICT-supported development policies and projects.

IICD was established by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1996. Our core funders include the Dutch Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGIS), the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). For more information, please visit www.iicd.org.

