



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

COUNTRY REPORT
2021-2023 | **AFRICA**



Mozambique

Helping Commonwealth Member States and institutions use distance learning and technologies for expanding access to education and training.

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) is focused on adding value to African member countries' efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG4. It's supporting the governments and institutions of Africa in the use of appropriate, affordable technologies to improve and expand learning for sustainable development.

During its current plan (2021-2027), COL will:

- i) build on its expertise in ODL, OER and TEL to play a more influential role in national policy development and implementation;
- ii) invest in innovations and research;
- iii) support the digital transformation of institutions and organisations;
- iv) promote gender equality; and
- v) implement a rigorous monitoring and evaluation plan.

COL's work is organised into two sectors — Education and Skills — with Gender Equality and Technology-Enabled Learning (TEL) as cross-cutting initiatives.

The Education sector supports formal education from secondary to tertiary levels across the Commonwealth, particularly in the small states in Africa (Botswana, The Gambia, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles) and has four initiatives: Open Schooling; Teacher Education; Higher Education and the Virtual University for Small States of The Commonwealth (VUSSC).

The Skills sector supports formal, non-formal and informal education and training to equip learners for livelihoods and has three initiatives: Skills for Work; Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) and GIRLS Inspire.

The work in these sectors complement the three pathways of change COL is focusing on in achieving impact for each African member country. These are:

1. Building National Resilience
2. Strengthening Institutions
3. Improving Lives and Livelihoods.

INTRODUCTION

Mozambique is a southeastern African country with a population of almost 33 million ([World Bank, 2022](#)),

COL's current work in Mozambique is primarily in the areas of higher education, open schooling and GIRLS Inspire - gender equality and women's empowerment through skills development for livelihoods and benefits from programmes offered by COL's regional centre, the Southern African Development Community Centre for Distance Education (SADC-CDE). Learners from Mozambique are also participating in COL's free, open online courses and benefitting from other available resources.

PARTNERS

COL's partners in Mozambique include:

- Ministry of Education and Human Development
- Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo Associação Progresso (ADPP)
- National Directorate for Professional Technical Education
- National Institute of Distance Education (INED)
- Universidade Eduardo Mondlane

KEY CONTACTS

COL FOCAL POINT

Mr António Franque

Technician: Central Accreditation and Training Services
National Institute of Distance Education (INED)

COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - MAY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- A strategy for the digitisation of learning resources, focusing on climate-responsive sustainable livelihoods and food security, has been developed.
- 671 women and girls trained in Mozambique

BUILDING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

COL is working with governments to use gender-responsive ODL policies and strategies for increasing equitable access to quality learning.

COL's Open Schooling initiative entered into an agreement with the National Institute of Distance Education (INED) to support a tracer study of students and teachers involved in the open schooling pilot to enable a more informed decision about whether and how to scale the intervention going forward. The first report from the tracer study indicates that between 2018 and 2020, 15,675 learners were supported through open schooling with the help of COL, with 6,895 learners successfully passing examinations in one or more subjects.

COL supported INED in updating their national ODeL policy framework based on lessons from the pilot.

Fifty-seven (57) Government staff/officials/policymakers were trained/sensitised on gender equality, Gender Based Violence (GBV), gender-sensitive practices, and grass roots advocacy.

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

COL is supporting partner institutions to strengthen its ODL systems and capacities for providing quality education and training.

Through its ongoing engagement with the Ministry, COL Open Schooling can track learner enrolment and completion since 2021.

With COL's support, the National Institute of Distance Education in Mozambique organised a workshop on curriculum mapping to develop open textbooks and build technical capacity in Moodle, which was attended by 23 (5M/8F) course developers/staff. [Nov 2022]

COL is supporting ADPP Mozambique with capacity building in various areas. These include:

- GIRLS Inspire pre-conference workshop took place at PCF10 with 21 (9m, 12f) participants from ten countries (Bangladesh, Canada, India, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Uganda), 15 attended in person and six joined online. The workshop's objective was to develop a Strategy for Digitization of Learning Resources focusing on Climate and Environmentally Responsive Sustainable Livelihoods and Food Security through a collective discussion on: 1) Improving learning resources using COL's quality standards and aligning it to climate change and environmental protection; 2) Digitisation of the improved learning resources.; 3) Scaling up the use of digitised learning resources for sustainable livelihood and food security. [Sep 2022]
- COL conducted a workshop, attended by 12 (5M/7F) staff members from ADPP Mozambique, on OER and the development of online learning resources. The workshop addressed a wide range of topics, including: The history of OER, the various open licenses, the challenges for OER, why resources should be gender responsive and how to assess whether the material meets the criteria for quality ODL. [Apr 2023]
- The ICT Augmentation project trained 25 (12M/8F/5-unreported) tutors in digital systems for distance learning. [May 2023]

Teachers from Mozambique participated in the COL MOOC on cybersecurity training for teachers (November 2022).

REGIONAL CENTRE: SADC-CDE

A three-day workshop on introduction to ODL was conducted for 29 Universidale Pungue staff from two campuses held from 7-9 February 2022.

26 senior officials comprising representatives from Universities participated in the high-level workshop on developing effective OER policies for the SADC region from 20-21 June 2022 in Gaborone.

In February 2022, a seminar was organised on "The Future of open and distance e-learning (ODEL) in higher education institutions in the 21st Century: Challenges and opportunities" to sensitise the institution staff at 16 SADC member states (including 11 Commonwealth countries).

IMPROVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

COL continues to provide learners, especially from disadvantaged groups, access to learning and resources for improved livelihoods.

The National Institute for Distance Education completed a tracer study related to the implementation of the open schooling model. A modified version of the report was translated into English as two case studies for COL's Journal of Learning for Development: [Open and Innovative Schooling: An Implementation Experience in Fifteen Secondary Schools across Mozambique](#) (Nov 2021) and [Innovative Open Schooling in Secondary Education in Mozambique: Technological Conditions for Students to Attend Distance Learning](#) (Jul 2022)

Enrollment in COL-supported open schooling programme in Mozambique reported an increase of 2,704 (945M/1,759F) learners in Grades 8, 9 and 10 courses. [Feb2023]

COL's GIRLS Inspire initiative is operational in Mozambique and is supporting Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo Associação Progresso (ADPP) in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment through skills development for livelihoods and community sensitisation. To date, a total of 671 women and girls have been trained; 426 have accessed financial resources such as loans; 667 have opened bank accounts; 12 have accessed internship opportunities; and 4,208 Community members reached through advocacy events conducted. Activities include:

- 88 (13M/75F) learners trained in context-specific and labour market-relevant livelihood skills training.
- 18 saving groups created for 364 (57M/307F) members to increase access to finance for income generation activities.
- 701 (34M/667F) learners opened mobile accounts, and 237 (40M/197F) learners opened bank accounts.
- 119 women were mentored and linked to financial resources through the establishment of 6 savings groups established by ADPP. [Jan2023]
- conducted various awareness-raising events and sensitised 2,000 people in gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence; participants included girls, boys, women and men of different ages between 13 and 70 years of age. [Jan2023]
- In late 2022, ADPP entered into two new partnerships with financial institutions, Letshego and ICEF micro-credit, to improve women and girls' chances of accessing loans.

COL is supporting ADPP Mozambique in strengthening its capacity in open distance and eLearning (ODeL) as part of a special ICT augmentation process to build institutional resilience. Activities to date include:

- The first IT training started with 19 (8M/11F) young people.
- 228 (140M/88F) students were enrolled for distance learning. All students will benefit from ICT skills training throughout their training through the support of tutors already trained in the past period.
- 80 (40M/40F) students were selected by ADPP Mozambique to be trained in the installation of server solar systems.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

COL's Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning is held triennially and is co-hosted with different partners in different regions of the Commonwealth. The **Tenth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF10)**, the first-ever hybrid Forum, was held in Calgary, Canada from 14-16 September 2022. PCF11 is planned to be held in Botswana in 2025.

The **Regional Focal Points Meeting for Africa and Europe** was held in Seychelles from 20-21 February 2023. Official representatives from 20 Commonwealth countries in the region participated in the two-day meeting, including Mr Antonio Franque.

PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

Social Return on Investment Analysis of Support from the Commonwealth of Learning for the Open and Innovative Schooling Model (Belize, Malawi, Mozambique, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia) <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/3934>

Report on the Regional Focal Points Meeting - Africa and Europe
<http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5316>



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