

Programme Area Summary

Country: Mozambique

Programme Area: Education 2005 to 2010

What is the aim of the programme area?

To contribute to national efforts aimed at improving the quality of teachers and learning.

Why is VSO working in that particular Programme Area and region?

About 93% of Mozambique's inhabitants were illiterate upon its independence from Portugal in 1975. With the school network virtually grounded due to the massive exodus of the Portuguese teaching force, the Frelimo-led government started a fast programme of recuperating the education system by expanding the school network especially at primary grades where the systems did not reach before. The new system allowed an increase in the number of pupils enrolled in primary education from 600,000 in 1975 to 1.4 million in 1979 in support of this, VSO Mozambique's first CSP (2000 to 2003) aimed to help "increase availability, quality and access to education", hence during this time 95% of education volunteers were classroom teachers of which 85% were English teachers.

In 1999, the Government of Mozambique started the implementation of its first education sector strategic plan to be implemented until 2003. From 1997 to 2001, the Secondary and Technical English Project (STEP) allowed VSO volunteers to assist the Provincial English Language Advisors with teaching, in-service training of teachers and managing Provincial Resource Centres. Since STEP, VSO Mozambique has placed more volunteers in teacher training institutions and universities as we increase our focus on the quality of education.

VSO Mozambique's focus in a few provinces is expected to combine the achievements in rural livelihoods, HIV&AIDS and education. The geographical focus in Safala, Manica, Nampula, Maputo province, Maputo city and Niassa (Cuamba) will create a strong opportunity for achieving the objectives set for education and other sectors as we will be working with the main teacher training institution in the country as well as those provinces with a high index of rural poverty and also, being in the transport corridors, with high prevalence of HIV&AIDS.

Key beneficiaries and partners

The work of VSO Mozambique in education supports the Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC). MEC lacks teacher trainers with the appropriate skills and qualification to train quality teachers – experienced volunteers can meet this training need. The MEC through its Teacher Training Department has included VSO as one of the major players in the area of primary teacher training. The Universities, more specifically the Pedagogical University and the Faculty of Education in the Catholic University of Mozambique, continue to request VSO volunteer placements.

The main education *programme partners* are the following:

- IMAPs (teacher training colleges for training primary teachers)
- Universidade Pedagogica (teaching colleges) in Maputo, Beira and Nampula,
- English Resource Centers in Beira and Nampula
- UCM (Universidade Catolica de Mozambique): Education Faculty, Nampula and the Distance Teacher Training Project
- Ministry of Education and Culture – Teacher Training Directorate
- UEM Universidade Eduardo Mondlane
- MELTA, the Mozambican English Language Teachers Association;
- Various secondary schools

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Donors/funding partners

- World Bank
- CIDA Canada
- Royal Danish Embassy
- Embassy of Finland
- Royal Netherlands Embassy
- Embassy of Ireland
- Embassy of Sweden

Key objectives of the programme and cross-cutting themes

- To improve the professional capacity of teachers, especially in primary schools, so that student performance will in turn improve.
- To improve the quality of teacher training systems in targeted institutions.
- To improve the capacity of teacher educators in IMAPs, UCM and UP.
- To improve the effectiveness in MEC's planning and delivery of its sector-wide HIV&AIDS programme.
- To increase the performance and retention of female teacher trainees in teacher training institutions.

Current programme activities

Focus of International Volunteer Placements:

- Teacher training institutions: graduates in school management, education sociology, psychology of education, pedagogy, subject teaching methodology, secondary education methodology, distance education, curriculum development
- Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC) – Teacher Training Directorate: HIV and AIDS professionals and gender specialists.
- DPE, Provincial Directorate of Education: IT support
- Short-term volunteers provide skills/training/research input to partners. This is only with partners that are capable to ensuring good planning and follow-up.

Workshops, training and conferences

- Within the volunteer regional workshops there is always a space reserved for debating education issues. Volunteers are clustered according to areas of focus: primary teacher training and secondary teacher training. In these workshops education volunteers get support from those working on HIV & AIDS on issues related to mainstreaming HIV and AIDS.

Support to national volunteering

- VSO Mozambique is currently exploring support for national volunteering. One of the potential partners identified is an organization working on HIV & AIDS at school level. Students are selected to work voluntarily in schools and the community.

Research

- Mozambique has carried out the VSO "Valuing Teachers" research
- More recently DfID commissioned a study on the motivation of education workers in Mozambique. This study is due to finish in July 2007 when VSO Mozambique will learn more about possible areas for advocacy work and a strategy will be developed.

Advocacy and Global Education

- Strategy will be developed after the DfID commissioned study, however VSO Mozambique has been actively involved in the activities of the Education Coalition.

Partner exchange visits/study tours

- VSO Mozambique participated on the LINKS exchange visit to Malawi and Zambia which enabled the coalition members of the visiting countries to:

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- Learn from the experiences of the host civil society coalitions (Malawi and Zambia) and from each other
- Develop the capacity of civil society coalition members to hold their governments to account on the delivery of the Education For All goals
- Develop the capacity of the Teachers' Union representatives involved to represent teachers voices in policy dialogue more effectively.
- In future exchange visits will be made on the area of HIV & AIDS and Gender.

Providing grants and/or equipment for partners

- Small grant funds are available for initiatives in areas of gender and HIV/AIDS through RAISA

Development of publications or other materials for training or communication

- The DfID study on education workers motivation will be published and it is expected that it will be used as a learning document for VSO partners and donors.

Other partnership activities

- With the emphasis to be put on HIV & AIDS and gender the Education programme will be looking into making stronger partnerships with MONASO, the HIV & AIDS umbrella organization and FAWEMO the African Women Educationist Forum in Mozambique

What makes VSO's work in this programme area special?

- Working really programmatically by treating volunteer placements not as individual, isolated jobs but as integral parts of the education programme. For example:
 - Volunteers doing teacher training for secondary education are clustered in three main teacher training colleges, this allows interaction and professional and personal support among them.
 - Volunteers working in primary teacher training colleges are all working in a similar subject which allows an exchange of materials among volunteers using an education volunteer e-mail group.
- Trainee teachers have always reported being able to change their ways of learning and practicing teaching due to the experience they have shared with VSO volunteers.
- There is a strong potential for expanding the HIV & AIDS objective in the education sector including the use of National Volunteering.