AVU Multinational Project II: A collaborative approach to implementing an eLearning project in 21 countries

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by
Catherine Wangeci Thuo
Introduction: www.avu.org

- PanAfrican Intergovernmental Organization established by charter signed by 15 countries

- Established in 1997 as a project by WB in Washington DC

- Headquarters moved to Kenya in 2000, currently has regional Office in Dakar, Senegal

- MOU with African Union Commission, for support in eLearning

- Supported by leading African institutions like the AfDB and African governments like Nigeria TCF
Introduction: www.avu.org

- Mandate: significantly increasing access to quality higher education and training through the innovative use of ICTs
- Working beyond technological, language and cultural barriers in Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone Africa
- Large eLearning network of 30+ countries
- Find more http://www.avu.org/About-AVU/introduction.html
AVU Presence in Africa
AVU Multinational Support Project, Phase I
Introduction

Overall objective

– to enhance capacity of the AVU’s Partner institutions to develop ICT assisted education and training programs

Funding

– $7M by the AfDB for implementation of the project in one institution in each of the ten countries
– $0.7M Additional funding from UNDP Somalia for 2 extra institutions in Somalia

Implementation Period

2005 to 2011
### Project Beneficiaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>University of Nairobi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Kyambogo University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Open University of Tanzania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Jimma University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>Universidade Pedagogica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>University of Zambia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>University of Zimbabwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>Amoud University, <em>EAU, UoH</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>Université d’Antananarivo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>Université Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activity 1: Establishment ODeL Centres

Universidade Pedagogica, Mozambique
Activity 2: Training of Trainers for ODeL - ACEP

Cascade Training
Activity 3: ICT-Integrated Teacher Education Program

Collaboration Process in Program Dev & Delivery

Country Curriculum → Harmonized Curriculum → ODeLified Modules → In-Country Programs

Zimbabwe
Zambia
Senegal
Kenya
Madagascar
Somalia
Ethiopia
Mozambique
Uganda
Tanzania

Maths
Phys
Chem
Bio
ICTs
List of Modules Developed

1. Biology – 7 Modules
2. Chemistry – 12 Modules
3. Mathematics – 12 Modules
4. Physics – 15 Modules
5. ICT Basic Skills – 4 Modules
6. ICT Integration – 4 Modules
7. Education Professional Courses – 19 Modules

TOTAL = 73
For optimal access, all 73 modules were:
• translated into 2 other languages from language of authoring: all available in English, French, Portuguese
• printed as booklets for F2F learning
• burned into CD/DVDs – for offline learning
• Uploaded on LMS (moodle) and on mirror moodle server at PIs – online learning
• OER
Open Educational Resources Portal

http://oer.avu.org/
Open Educational Resources OER@AVU

- High quality modules developed by a consortium of 12 PIs
- Total of 219 modules
- Released as OER under the Creative Commons open licence.
- Platform is Open Source based on DSpace (developed by MIT)
- Content available in Word, PDF, Video links to YouTube, Scribd.
- Available on “the cloud” freely to use in the 4Rs:
  - Revise
  - Reuse
  - Remix
  - Re-distribute and post back to enrich OER@AVU
## OER@AVU Statistics – No of Visits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Internal (OER@AVU)</th>
<th>External (Scribd)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2010 - Feb 2011</td>
<td>18,257</td>
<td>20,064</td>
<td>38,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2011 - May 2011</td>
<td>63,531</td>
<td>73,031</td>
<td>136,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 2011 - Aug 2011</td>
<td>54,680</td>
<td>68,879</td>
<td>123,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2011 - Nov 2011</td>
<td>77,995</td>
<td>110,892</td>
<td>188,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2011 - Feb 2012</td>
<td>64,256</td>
<td>135,708</td>
<td>199,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2012 - May 2012</td>
<td>57,625</td>
<td>224,320</td>
<td>281,945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 2012 - Aug 2012</td>
<td>48,301</td>
<td>206,319</td>
<td>254,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2012 - Oct 2012</td>
<td>33,646</td>
<td>129,337</td>
<td>162,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>418,290</strong></td>
<td><strong>968,550</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,386,840</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Catherine Wangeci – Manager Project and Business Services – [cwangeci@avu.org](mailto:cwangeci@avu.org)
### OER@AVU Statistics – Top Countries

- 201 countries and territories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country / Territory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>(not set)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Catherine Wangeci – Manager Project and Business Services – cwangeci@avu.org
• 54 countries and territories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mozambique</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Angola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activity 4: Gender Mainstreaming

- Developed a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy Paper for PIs
- Awarded 597 scholarships: 60% of which were to females
A group of females students awarded scholarship for ICT Basic Skills in Kitwe, Zambia
Summary Outputs

- 10 ODeL Centres Established

- 459 academics trained in ACEP, Re-writing courses for ODeL, Program Delivery and Management and IT Maintenance

- 219 Modules in OER@AVU – has won 2 awards

- 597 Scholarships awarded

- Enrolment of more than 4,000 students

- Cross-border collaboration – TE Virtual Consortium – a community of practice

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Lessons Learnt

• Collaborative strategy was the most valuable lesson learnt

• Complexity of Implementation of technology-based project required constant evaluation

• Social political environments in different target countries called for flexibility

• The teacher education component demonstrated the possibility of achieving regional integration across language divides

• The importance of a research component
Challenges faced & mitigations

- Diverse Education systems across the continent: held initial separate processes


- Countries’ ICT policies concerning connectivity: case of Ethiopia and VSAT licensing: use of local ISP

- Varying processes in the PIs for curriculum approval: the formation of the Advisory Committee

- PIs academics ICT skills gap: training
Introduction

• Builds on the Phase I project
• Consolidate gains and spread the benefits
• Funded by African Development Bank: $15.6 Million

Objective: to strengthen the capacity of 27 Partnering Institutions (PIs) in 21 African countries within the AVU network and the African Virtual University (AVU) to develop, deliver and manage quality ICT assisted tertiary education and training opportunities in science and technology programs.
Project Beneficiary Countries

1. Mauritania
2. Mali
3. Niger
4. Senegal
5. Burkina Faso
6. Benin
7. Cameroon
8. Democratic Republic of Congo
9. Burundi
10. Ghana
11. Nigeria
12. Sudan
13. South Sudan
14. Kenya
15. Tanzania
16. Rwanda
17. Namibia
18. The Gambia
19. Mozambique
20. Guinea Bissau
21. Cape Verde

1. Francophone sites
2. Anglophone sites
3. Lusophone sites
Project Activities:

Adopt the collaborative strategy in Phase I for:

- Infrastructure - establish 27 Open Distance and eLearning (ODeL): 15 new and 12 upgrade

- Training of Trainers: AVU Capacity Enhancement Program (ACEP)

- Review the Phase I Teacher Education Program

- Develop & Deliver Computer Science Program

- Peace and Conflict Resolution Program

- Research and Development in ICT in Education
  - Publishing of an annual open online journals
  - Convening of an annual conference on ICT in Education
  - Establishment of a Mobile Learning Laboratory
Project Activities cont

• The scholarship Fund
  – Award more than 500 scholarships to mostly female students

• Promote OER
  – Revise the AVU@OER site to a more interactive platform
  – Add 150 new modules and revise the current 219
  – OER sensitization workshops

• Quality Assurance Framework for eLearning
Possible collaboration with NRENs

- NRENs could use and/or promote the OERs within their networks
- ICT in Education Infrastructure: use of the established ODeL Centres
- Training of Trainers: the ACEP
- Research and Development in ICT in Education
Thank You

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