



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

CapEFA News

Highlights of the Capacity Development for Education for All programme

An extrabudgetary programme created in 2003 with the objective of strengthening national capacities in key areas of education: sector-wide policies and plans, literacy, teachers and skills for the world of work.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH - Skills for the world of work

Malawi



During a visit to Malawi in July, UNESCO's Director-General Irina Bokova launched the second phase of the CapEFA programme. Introduced in 2009, the programme supports the government in its efforts to build a fully operational technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system that efficiently addresses the skills needs of youth.

Predominantly rural and with a population estimated at 16 million, half of whom is under 18, Malawi has an alarming number of out-of-school adolescents. Completing primary school remains a major challenge, making TVET an essential tool to increase social participation and provide youth with the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills to integrate the world of work.

Speaking at the Lilongwe Technical College, Ms Bokova highlighted some of the main achievements of the first phase, especially the work to harmonize the country's fragmented TVET system. Colleges were implementing three different curricula, which was a major bottleneck in the development of the sector. Through the CapEFA programme, UNESCO worked to harmonize not only the TVET curricula, but also the equally disconnected assessment and certification systems.



Official launch of the second phase of the CapEFA programme in Malawi at the Lilongwe Technical College (©UNESCO).



Director-General Irina Bokova greets CapEFA National Coordinator Harry Kamdima (©UNESCO).

The Lilongwe Technical College, which was properly equipped and transformed in a Centre of Excellence during the programme's first phase, is now delivering training modules to TVET teachers in the implementation of the new curriculum. Results also triggered synergies with other projects. UNESCO's Better Education for Africa's Rise (BEAR) project will now roll out the new harmonized curriculum in two pilot sectors: agro-food and construction.

Many challenges remain and the recently launched second phase of the programme builds on the achievements so far, the TVET policy review undertaken by UNESCO in 2010 and on the work jointly carried out by ILO and UNESCO within the framework of the G20 Training Strategy. It will focus on enhancing capacities for stronger policy coordination, formulation, implementation, and monitoring. It will further train national stakeholders in monitoring and evaluation, and develop an overall approach for tracer studies. In view of the few existing measures to meet the skills needs of young women, and the absence of data and research regarding gender gaps, CapEFA will also seek to establish an action plan to mainstream gender. It will also work in synergy with the BEAR project to design and implement a TVET information system, training relevant stakeholders in data analysis and in the creation of statistical profiles on skills development.