

Imfundo: Partnership for IT in Education

DFID, 1 Palace Street, London, SW1E 5HE

www.imfundo.org

Newsletter 30 – October 2003

Key topics highlighted in this Newsletter include information about Imfundo's first Output to Purpose Review, an update on progress in support of the Department of Education in Limpopo Province (South Africa), and Imfundo's work in Kenya, Malawi and Ghana. Last month's newsletter noted new staff who have recently joined the team for short periods of time. To this list should now be added Malla Pessonen who has been working with us on our Output to Purpose Review. She has brought considerable experience from her past work in DFID's Africa Policy Department, and we wish her well as she shortly departs for a new life in Finland.

Tim Unwin

8th October 2003

Imfundo's Output to Purpose Review – please contribute your views

Following the work of Imfundo's inception team in 2000, our implementation phase started in April 2001. From its origins, Imfundo was intended to be innovative, both in terms of its partnerships and in its exploration of how best to use ICT in support of education in Africa. Crucial to this work is therefore constant review of our processes and achievements. As part of our monitoring procedures we have built in two formal reviews of Imfundo's work, after two and four years of our programme. We are delighted that the first such Output to Purpose Review is currently underway, and would like as many people as possible to contribute to this process. The review team is being led by Myra Harrison (former Chief Education Adviser in DFID) and includes Aida Opoku-Mensah (ICT Team Leader, UNECA, Addis Ababa), David Bishop (VSO Regional Programme Manager for West Africa), and Bob Day (independent consultant, South Africa). They will be interviewing a range of people, as well as distributing questionnaires to a sample of individuals and organisations with whom

Imfundo has worked. We would, though, like to use this opportunity to invite anyone else to contribute to this review. Should you have any views that you would like to submit to the Review Team please send them before the end of October in an e-mail headed "Imfundo OPR" to s-ramsay@dfid.gov.uk, and she will then collate them for forwarding to Myra Harrison. We very much hope that as many readers of this Newsletter as possible will take the opportunity to contribute in this way so that Imfundo can better serve the needs of African peoples and governments.

South Africa update – Imfundo activities starting in Limpopo Province

Bas Kotterink and Tim Unwin visited South Africa from 14th-18th September to meet with partners and take forward Imfundo's support to DFID's programmes in the country.

Following the visit, Imfundo has now started implementation of the following activities relating to knowledge management in



support of the DFID funded Khanyisa Education Support Programme for the Limpopo Department of Education:

- Provision of senior level support to develop the capacity of the Education Management Information System (EMIS) Unit, including an EMIS Policy and Strategy Adviser, and an EMIS Capacity Development Adviser
- Provision of an EMIS database/systems developer
- Provision of a local service provider to assist with the processing of the Department of Education's annual survey



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Imfundo Managing Partner Services will also be delivered through our ResourceBank Partner NetDay Association, South Africa (www.netday.org.za), who have generously made available Office Facilities for other Imfundo partners in Johannesburg.

Imfundo at the 10th Cambridge International ODL Conference

Imfundo participated actively in the 10th Cambridge International ODL Conference held from 23rd-26th September. Education Adviser, Dr. Caroline Pontefract and Andrew Law (from the BBC) presented a paper entitled *ICT for Education: Partnership in Practice*. Imfundo also funded the participation of James Sankale and John Limozi from Kenya's Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, who presented a paper on *Implementing a School-Based Teacher Development Programme*.

Support for SchoolNet Malawi

At the recommendation of DFID Malawi, Imfundo is providing support to SchoolNet Malawi through its ResourceBank partner, NetDay Association. A consultant is working with SchoolNet Malawi in October to help the development of a business plan that will address: the sustainable management and deployment of ICT facilities; identification of potential for the generation of future ICT expertise in Malawi; support for teacher training institutions and structures; and a partnership development strategy designed to engage the private sector, civil society and government.

Imfundo activities in Kenya

Dr. Caroline Pontefract visited Kenya from 12th-20th September to help shape the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology's Free Primary Education Support Programme (FRESP), especially relating to the extension of the School-based Teacher Education Programme. She will be returning to Kenya later in October to take this work forward and

to identify ways in which Imfundo's partners can contribute to ICT elements of this emerging programme.

Ghana update

The Director of Imfundo partner IEC, Dr. Felicity Binns, has recently visited Ghana to support the development of the ICT ODL strategy for the Teacher Education Division, focusing particularly on financial and budgetary issues. The programme's Advisory Group has identified that the main target group for Imfundo's support should be the estimated 30,000 untrained teachers in the country.

Partner and other resources

- The Association of Commonwealth Universities has recently announced the launch of its new online reference service, CUDOS (see www.acu.ac.uk/cudos).
- Education.au has published an excellent paper on Open Source Software and Australian School Education (www.educationau.edu.au/papers/open_source.doc) - relevant well beyond Australia.
- i4d is a new magazine, available in print and on-line (www.i4donline.net) providing a platform for information, ideas, opinion and experiences in the ICT4D sector. An initiative of the Centre for Spatial Database Management and Solutions at NOIDA, it includes much useful material, particularly on activities in India.
- For a new web-site and discussion forum on Telecom prices and ICT costs in Africa, visit www.africt.org.
- GTZ and the Ethio-German TVET Programme in Addis Ababa are hosting a seminar on *ICT-based Knowledge Building and Management* in Addis Ababa on 23rd October (contact zshikur@yahoo.com).
- T-learning: the final report of a global survey and analysis of the issues concerning the development of digital TV-based interactive learning in the home is available at www.pjb.co.uk/t-learning.htm.

