HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Happy New Year! 2015 started and the TTE project is already on full speed with all activities for the upcoming year. Still, a lot of action took place in 2014. In November, we received a team of consultants to carry out the midterm review of the project. In both NTC Kaliro and NTC Muni they celebrated the start of the infrastructure with ground breaking ceremonies. In HTC Mulago everything is on track with the building of the new block.

The first weeks of 2015 kicked off with the ATL training for Unit 3. Soon all trainers (National Experts and the various Mentor Teachers of each college) are off to the colleges again to train all teachers about resources for active teaching and learning. In this newsletter you will find some pictures and some explanation on these trainings. The most important question is: What is active teaching and learning? Why is it important to focus and reach out to the Teacher Training Institutions?

Sadly, we also said goodbye to our dearest colleague Leah Sikoyo. We wish her the best in all her future endeavours! The TTE team welcomed Mrs. Bona Maandera, who will be the new Training Coordinator for HTC Mulago. We also welcomed back a familiar face: Tine Thijs, who is going to work on behavioural change and community participation. Both of them joined us in January. Getting curious? In this newsletter you can get to know them a bit better by reading their interviews.

This week, a lot of teachers attend a training of STIR, which wants to empower teachers to become changemakers. With a lot of active participation, teachers were encouraged to find their spark again and their love for teaching. Because active and motivated teachers make for better learning!

Next up for our project is the second beneficiaries’ training on Active Teaching and Learning in the nine colleges and our Annual Retreat in the second week of February in Entebbe. In Entebbe we will also hold our Thematic Team Quarterly Coordination Meeting! As you can read, busy weeks are coming!

ALL THE BEST TO LEAH SIKOYO:
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS AND HARD WORK!

WELCOME TO BONA MAANDERA AND TINE THIJS:
WE ARE SO HAPPY TO HAVE BOTH OF YOU IN OUR TEAM!
ENJOY! :)

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LEAH SIKOYO:
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS AND HARD WORK!
Through the TTE project, all colleges have the opportunity to apply for support for pedagogical projects, and soon also for income generating projects. There appears to be some confusion, so let’s clarify!

Actually the name already states what the ultimate focus is and the core idea of the project: the priority of the pedagogical projects is learning practical skills. They are student-oriented and should first and foremost teach the students a new technical skill through learning-by-doing.

The TTE project initiated development of pedagogical projects (project work) in the colleges to promote practical active teaching and learning activities, which are designed by a committee of lecturers, and college management and implemented together with the college students and in some cases for the local community.

The income generating activities are to try to tap into new incomes and do not necessarily provide the students with learning opportunities. Sound management is key here. Activities here might not have any links with teaching and learning. For instance, the college could open a small stationary shop both for the students and the community.

It get’s confusing, because a pedagogical project might generate some income, and the income generating project might also provide for a teaching/learning opportunity.

For instance, in Abilonino NIC, in the horticulture project the students experienced new skills, but the product of this (hard) labour was either consumed by staff and students or sold to the community outside the college. This is a perfectly fine side-effect, and can be an opportunity for the students to study and experience business skills. However, the focus has to remain on the learning opportunity for the students. And remember, from mistakes or bad experiences, one can sometimes even learn and grow the most!
ACTIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING: UNIT 3
**ACTIVTEACHING AND LEARNING**

**BY TIE/T/EOES**

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE ACTIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING?**

« Active teaching and learning is the use of methods that shift the focus of activity from the teacher to the learner. Teachers facilitate rather than dictate. And learners do not act like the "spectators in sport" but get really involved in teaching and learning. »

**HOW BIG IS THE ROLE OF THE TEACHER EDUCATOR?**

« Because of their role (to produce fully responsible teachers), the teacher educators are meant to equip prospective teachers with knowledge, skills, attitude, behaviors and skills that they require to perform their tasks effectively in classroom, school and wider community. Students will benefit through short term mastery, long term retention, acquisition of critical thinking, creative problem solving, formation of attitude towards teaching profession or confidence. They will go beyond the classroom and be recognized in the community due to the skills acquired. »

Harriet Kagezi  
Senior Education Officer

**WHY ARE WE TRAINING TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTIONS?**

« Teachers are the beginning point, they have to know what to do in order to do so. They will eventually train teachers. Teachers will use methodologies and techniques that they know. When they learn something practically, they will also teach in a practical way. »

**HOW WILL THE STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM THESE TRAININGS?**

« An empowered teacher educator will pass on to students teachers will pass on to all classrooms. The multiplier effect is very big when you are working in the Teacher Training Institutions: it can spread to each classroom in Uganda! »

Dr. Jane  
Assistant Commissioner, Instructor/Tutor Education
This month, NTC Muni had a colourful ground breaking ceremony to celebrate the start of the TTE project result number 4: the construction and rehabilitation of the college! A lot of key stakeholders visited Muni on the happy day to bless the beginning of this exciting period.

The Ambassador of the Belgian Government, H.E. Alain Hanssen and BTC Uganda’s Mr. Shone Nebeyu both held a memorable speech on the hill of NTC Muni. But the community of Muni was also able to see some of the most admired officials from the Ministry of Education and Sports on their premises: Hon Maj. 5Rtd) Jessica Alupo, Rose Epel (MP MoES), Dr. Rose Lukwago (Permanent Secretary MoES, Mrs. Margaret N. Nsereko (Commissioner Teacher Instructor Education and Training/ TIET) and assistant commissioners of TIET were all present.

Members of the regional Parliament, the Rent District Commissioner of Arua, the District Office Local Council one to five all paid a visit to the institution. One wonders how the furthest project site could attract this kind of delegation!

The ground breaking ceremony celebrated both the rehabilitation and the extension that will take place in NTC Muni, after a long time of halted construction. The college, together with the community, unveiled the foundation stone, which is placed next to the site of the new structure for the administrative block.

Let an exciting time begin!
The year 2014 kicked off with the inauguration of the College mini bus, donated by the TTE project. But of course, the project continued to deliver. The project injected close to 50 million to launch two pedagogical projects which are currently managed by the Vocational Department. We congratulate Mr. Basadha David and Mr. Otikori Stephen upon winning this funding through their well articulated proposals.

In May, the second microteaching workshop was successfully conducted. It was the perfect opportunity to showcase our locally shot videos as a tool for reflection on the current teaching practices in the college. This process will remain continuous as a tool for professional development for the teaching staff of NTC Kaliro.

The month of June will forever remain memorable in the lives of the NTC Kaliro community. For the first time, the college was connected to the rest of the world via a dedicated internet connection. Having searched for internet signals from underneath the mango tree next to the football field for close to two years, we can now operate from the comfort of our offices and classrooms. We finally have a wireless connection which has created internet access in the entire academic quadrangle.

Relatedly, the TTE project has continued to sponsor members of the college staff to various conferences. For instance, our beloved Principal, Mr. Iraalya Gordon and our IT Manager, Ms. Kauma Racheal participated in the E-learning Africa conference 2014 at which the Principal presented a paper reflecting on the use of video in enhancing pedagogical practices.

In September, we witnessed the launch of staff trainings in Active Teaching and Learning (ATL) methodologies and techniques. The fruits of this training are already being tasted by students during various lectures. It is a duty for all of us to embrace ATL and optimally harness the advantages that come with it. Besides that, in a bid to build capacity in ICT4ED, Mr. Ahumuza Emmanuel (Head of Department I.T.) and myself joined a team (17 teachers educators selected from Sub-Saharan Africa) who developed educational mobile apps, following a week long design thinking course at the University of Cape Town South Africa.

There has been a steady progress towards achieving the different project results in the last quarter. It was such a busy period at the college characterized by support supervision, monitoring and evaluation, the famous mid term review before all being crowned with the long awaited for - groundbreaking ceremony!
What are you going to do exactly in the TTE team?

My job in the TTE project is to support HTC Mulago as an institution. That is, holistically supporting the management and academic processes of the college. These two go hand in hand.

What do you most look forward to in your job?

I look forward to supporting Mulago HTC with the blended teaching and learning, which I understand they would like to engage in for some of their courses. Blended learning involves converting the current courses to be run in the two modes: face-to-face and online. The online version requires one to embed an instructional design that engages the learners, even though they are not face to face with their lecturer. I will use my skills and experience to facilitate the institution achieve this.

What is your favorite place in Uganda?

My favorite place is a place close to the water, for example The Haven in Jinja. Sitting there and watching the rapids on the Nile and the Whitewater rafters drifting by makes me feel relaxed.

What is your ideal holiday?

My ideal holiday is a walking holiday. As long as I am in nature, near the mountains or near running waters or streams, I am happy.

What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

VANILLA!

What is your #3 on your bucket list?

Hmm. Usually they ask for # 1 and you ask for number 3!
Let's see... Number one is... number three is to develop my career by supporting the use of ICT in institutions in Uganda. Not only for specific subjects, but to be an ambassador of ICT4All, in enhancing active teaching and learning.
TINE THIJS
BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE & COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION OFFICER

Tine Thijs was born in Leuven, a nice city in Belgium. She studied Political Science in her hometown and got her second Master in Development and African Studies at Edinburgh University in Scotland. In her free time she loves to be active: running and swimming are her hobbies. But she also likes some downtime with a good book and a Belgian beer.

What are you going to do exactly in the TTE team?

My role is to stimulate and follow-up which behavioural change is going to take place in the field of Active Teaching and Learning and environment. I will also explore ways to engage the community in the TTE project.

What do you most look forward to in your job?

I look forward to see how Active Teaching and Learning is introduced in Ugandan schools and how people will hopefully thoroughly enjoy both teaching and learning. I also look forward to visit the schools and to engage with the people and the community.

What is your favorite place in Uganda?

Anywhere I can spot hippo's! Or reading a book on my porch is also quite lovely.

What is your ideal holiday?

My last vacation was perfect: I spent it in Italy with good food and even better company. I'm looking forward to similar trips in Uganda. I cannot wait to explore the wildlife and the gorgeous views of this country.

What is your favorite icecream flavor?

Nutella. But anything with nuts and/or chocolate will make me happy!

What is your #3 on your bucket list?

Traveling to South-East Asia with my best friend and try out the deepfried Tarantula. (Yes, the spider). Number one on my bucket list is definitely seeing hippo's in Uganda.
It has recently been an exciting season for the infrastructure group and of course the project as a whole. For 2 and a half years we laboured to explain that the construction projects would take time. At the time, it seemed easier to have a truck load of building materials on site just to quell the expectations, but the long and tedious route of detailed planning was deemed the best alternative. This was to make sure that we construct facilities that are fit for purpose and in line with the requirements of the colleges.

At last, construction has commenced at Mulago HTC, NTC Kaliro and NTC Muni after a lengthy and participatory design process. This design process included preparation of master plans for Kaliro and Muni and preliminary designs, detailed designs and bidding documents for all three colleges. Thereafter contractors were selected and works on 3 of the sites is ongoing.

At Mulago HTC, construction of a pedagogic block began in July 2014. It was marked by a colourful ground breaking ceremony, officiated by the Minister of Education and Sports and the ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium. Implementation is being undertaken by Egy Pro Ltd, while supervision is done by Arch Design Limited. Six months down the road, the block is 50% complete. The concrete frame is done and construction is moving into the finishes and fittings phase. We expect to complete works within the stipulated contract period of 12 months.

At Kaliro NTC, celebrations were held on the 17th of December 2014 when the construction work was launched. Construction will be done for a period of 14 months and will comprise new facilities (library, classrooms and toilet facilities) and rehabilitation of pedagogic and administration blocks at the college. The works are implemented by Complant Engineering and Trade Company while supervised by FBW limited.

On the 13th January 2015, Muni NTC celebrated the ‘birth of twins’: a figurative representation of the commencement of rehabilitation and construction of new facilities at the college. In the colourful ceremony the Minister of Education and Sports and the ambassador of Belgium broke the ground for the construction works. The project will run for 14 months and includes construction of a laboratory block, administration block, library and rehabilitation of pedagogic block and multipurpose block. The works are implemented by Ambitious Construction Company Limited and supervised by Infrastructure Design Forum.

For National Instructors College Abilonino, the procurement for a contractor and the evaluation process are ongoing and it is expected that this will be concluded within the coming two months.

At this point we would like to state that not all has been a bed of roses. We have met and are still faced with a number of challenges. Procurement has been a challenge with a number of delays in approvals at various stages. Additionally the supervision of works will stretch the team because the phase requires close follow up to ensure that the works are carried out to the required quality and specification. We also have to ensure that the contractors’ works do not disrupt the operations of the colleges.
What is it like to be a Mentor Teacher?

Two folded: it helps the mentor himself to develop himself professionally, because he gets a lot from others as he is mentoring. On the other hand it also helps the other teachers/lecturers also to develop, because it eliminates doing work in isolation. As I was mentoring I noticed that much as we have departments we are not practically coordinating with each other. But mentoring promotes cordial relationships within the teaching and learning process. It also promotes skills to both the mentor and the trainees. Such skills like communication, problem solving, ICT skills and other skills. It also goes beyond to create friendship between lecturers, the mentor and the student teachers.

What do you like most about giving the trainings Unit 3?

This training is very important because it bridges the gaps we had. Like in cooperation ICT in the teaching and learning. As mature lecturers we are visitors in the world of ICT. But it has enabled us to try and catch up with the younger generation, where we are using Whatsapp, Facebook and other media.

What is it like to be a Mentor Teacher?

I love being a MT. It is good to guide others, and I have to be an example in practice. Since being introduced to ATL, I have learned a lot and improved so much.

I extend a hand to others in my college, NIC Abilonino and explain ATL methods and techniques to them.

Which Toolbox did you enjoy the most facilitating this week?

Flashcards!

Toolbox 2 introduced me to flashcards and how they can be used in all aspects of teaching; the introduction, during and conclusion. No matter how little time you have, you can always use flashcards. They are also useful for organising quizzes.

I also loved the Hot Potatoes. You can choose the quiz form. Both the teacher and the learner can always refer to it, as you can also store the data.

Of all the trainings and modules, what have you enjoyed the most?

I am really enjoying this week in Jinja VTI (with NIC Abilonino, HTC Mulago, Nakawa and Jinja VTI). The pace of the trainings is perfect. The National Experts work as a team with the Mentor Teachers.

One challenges was the network. Sometimes that creates a delay in learning.
Everyone is welcome to visit our new Facebook group on Active Teaching and Learning! Almost all National Experts, Mentor Teachers from the colleges and some members of TIET and the TTE team are using it to discuss about ATL. Please join! The group is called ‘Active Teaching and Learning - Uganda 2015’. An administrator of the group will approve your request. Let’s share our thoughts and knowledge and keep each other updated: