



Minutes of the hybrid

FutureLife-Now! Regional Task Team Meeting

15 February 2022

Held in Cape Town and remotely, via Teams



FutureLife-Now!



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

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PRESENTATIONS

FutureLife-Now! Update	M Cockerill
ESA Commitment Update	L Kumboneki
Regional Research Study on Youth Agency	Y Tagwireyi
Learner Survey 2022 and MER updates	J Norins
Member State presentations:	
Lesotho	
Malawi	
Zambia	
Zimbabwe	

Presentations will be uploaded on the SADC CSTL, CSTL Pulse and MIET AFRICA websites: www.cstlsadc.com; [CSTL PULSE - Home - A Better Africa \(a-better-africa.com\)](http://CSTL PULSE - Home - A Better Africa (a-better-africa.com)); www.mietafrica.com

ABBREVIATIONS

M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

Meeting information

The four Member States selected to pilot the SADC FutureLife-Now! Programme are Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Chairperson: Maureen Maguza-Tembo, Ministry of Education, Malawi

Scribe: Michael Main (MIET AFRICA)

Format: see attendance register (attached)

Format: The meeting was a hybrid of in-person and remote (via Teams). Virtual delegates were asked to pose questions and make comments through the Chat facility.

Welcome and introductions

The meeting commenced at 13h40.

The chairperson apologized for the delayed start, and welcomed everyone from SADC, SDC, MIET AFRICA and the four participating Member States.

Participants attending remotely were requested to introduce themselves in the Chat facility.

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance: see register

No apologies were received.

Agenda and Minutes

Adoption of the agenda

The chairperson went through the agenda before it was adopted without amendment: proposed and seconded by Malawi.

Minutes of the meeting on 4 November 2021

ADOPTION

Having been projected on the screen, the minutes were adopted without amendment: proposed by Zambia; seconded by Malawi.

Regional inputs

FUTURELIFE-NOW! UPDATE

Megan Cockerill: MIET AFRICA—see presentation

The presentation included an overview of the programme, as well as the highlights for 2021, an important aspect of which was the use of digital technology (SMS-messaging, radio and TV programmes) to reach the beneficiaries during the COVID-19 lockdowns. It concluded with a summary of the plans for 2022, which are heavily influenced by this being the final year of Phase 1 of the programme.

The presentation concluded with an animated video clip on teenage pregnancy. All the animated video clips will be available through the CSTL Pulse platform.

Q&A and comments

C (Zambia): The animations will be very useful.

Q (SDC): Regarding the SMS campaign, are the beneficiaries only in the pilot schools, or is it extended to other schools? Is there a way to determine whether learners are benefitting, especially as not all have access to cell phones?

R: The beneficiaries are generally from the programme's database, though it has been broadened to include some of those in partners' networks. The programme is investigating buying entry-level cell phones (i.e. not smart phones, and which can only be used for calls and messaging) for pilot school learners.

C (MIET AFRICA): The scripts of the animated clips were approved by the technical task team in all the relevant Member States; they are accompanied by a guide for facilitating the dialogues.

C (UNFPA): The video clips are appreciated, but they should include a disclaimer to check they are not in contravention of national policies.

R: The guide that accompanies the clips provide such additional information.

RENEWED ESA COMMITMENT

~ update on the endorsement process, advocacy, etc.

Lamboly Kumboneki: SADC Secretariat (see presentation)

Dr Kumboneki's presentation summarized the original 2013 ESA Commitment and some of its achievements and shortfalls in attainment, which the new Commitment seeks to address. He outlined the plans for engagement of Member States, categorized by those that had already endorsed, those that missed the opportunity to endorse, and those that had refused to endorse.

The presentation also included a summary of the new targets in terms of the timeframes: those to be achieved by 2025, and those to be achieved by 2030. It

concluded with a summary of the resources and tools—including the Young People Today website (www.youngpeopletoday.org/), ESA dashboard and Media Package.

REGIONAL RESEARCH STUDY ON YOUTH AGENCY—UPDATE

Yvonne Tagwireyi: MIET AFRICA—see presentation

The presentation began with an overview of why youth agency is critical: 21st century challenges need young people’s voices and actions. Ms Tagwireyi summarized the research aims, which include identifying obstacles to youth exercising their agency. The other research questions are: How youth agency is understood and experienced by young people themselves, and what the implications for youth programming are.

Q&A and comments

C (MIET AFRICA): In two of the Member States, some of the youth researchers are FutureLife-Now! youth facilitators.

Q (SDC): We should start investing so that we start reaping the youth dividend.

R: We are already late. We need to invest now. If we do not, we will not achieve the SDG 4 targets.

LEARNER SURVEY 2022 AND M&E UPDATE

Jennifer Norins: MIET AFRICA—see presentation

The presentation outlined the FutureLife-Now! M&E methodologies, before explaining the youth facilitator reporting mechanisms. With regards to the learner survey, the purpose is to assess learners’ knowledge and self-reported behaviour on key programme outcomes. Ms Norins also outlined the focal point and school reporting, as well as health facility data, which is critical for evaluating the programme's effectiveness in changing behaviour and specific health outcomes. She concluded with an explanation of the end of phase evaluation, which will be both internal and external.

Member State presentations

Each of the four Member States presented on the following:

- 2021 highlights
- Lessons learnt
- Plans / Priority focus areas for 2022

LESOTHO

See presentation

Q&A and comments

Q (SDC): Has any progress been made on integrating “herdboys” into the CSTL system?

R: The programme has tried to work with other organizations to address the issue, but some of these are no longer working in this field. The programme is therefore investigating which other organizations it can work with.

MALAWI

See presentation

Q&A and comments

Q (MIET AFRICA): Congratulations to Malawi, especially on the Climate change, Gardening and Boys’ vulnerability components. But with regards to links between schools and health facilities, what is the current situation—have relationships/referral networks been established?

R: The programme has already established the referral system and is implementing it in all ten pilot schools, and this includes out-of-school youth. However, the priorities for 2022 include strengthening the referral system, and is taking the opportunity to document what is working and what is not.

ZIMBABWE

See presentation

Q&A and comments

Q (MIET AFRICA): Unlike the other Member States, Zimbabwe uses a different model where peer educators (teachers) are used rather than youth facilitators. Has this been effective in strengthening relationships between schools and health facilities?

R: Having peer educators has proved to be an advantage in getting health facilities involved with the schools.

ZAMBIA

See presentation

Q&A and comments

Q (MIET AFRICA): Thanks for a very clear presentation.

Closing remarks

SDC

Mr Mugore expressed his appreciation for the comprehensive input by Member States, as well as for the links between CSTL and FutureLife-Now!, which show how initiatives can become sustainable. There are very good linkages being schools and health facilities, and he commended Lesotho, as “new” in the CSTL world, for its efforts in this regard. He urged Member States to continue the good work, which he hoped could be continued in conjunction with MIET AFRICA in the next phase.

SADC

Dr Kumboneki thanked Member States for their valuable inputs, and concurred with Mr Mugore on the importance of sustainability of FutureLife-Now! as a component of CSTL. He thanked MIET AFRICA for its role as implementing partner, as well as SDC as SADC’s partner over the years. He appealed for continued support so more Member States can be reached.

CLOSURE

There being no other items, the chairperson thanked SADC and SDC, as well as MIET AFRICA for organizing the meeting, and to all who had participated. Dr Sannasee (SADC) thanked the chair for the orderly way the meeting was conducted, after which it was declared closed at 16h50.