

Experiences in Quality Education

PROGRAM FOR EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA



República de Guinea Ecuatorial
Ministerio de Educación, Ciencia y Deportes

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Facilitators of Updated Practicum Complete Training and Development Course

On December 17, a graduation ceremony for the facilitators of the updated Practicum will be held. A total of 18 individuals will graduate with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to bring active practices to the classroom. Over the course of 16 months and 930 hours, the training has prepared participants to facilitate the Practicum's debut with first-year students in both tracks of the EUFP Teachers College: the Diploma for Teachers of Primary Education and the University Diploma.

Training for Practicum facilitators began in September 2009, following the selection of 18 participants from Malabo and Bata. With a variety of



backgrounds, life experiences,

"I have really changed the way I work with the children (in the classroom)... Before, I did not know how to manage classes... Now, I handle my emotions better. When a child fails to respond, I approach the child to see how I can help."

Felipe Ndong Owono

and an age range of 20 to 40, participants have come to the training for different reasons. Many are currently primary or secondary school teachers, while others are still working to complete their initial teacher training.

Despite these differences, one thing participants have in common is the call to teach. As Marcelino Obama Ndong shared, "Since I was a child, I have always wanted to study to be a teacher."

Without exception, these facilitators have experienced a profound change in their personal and professional lives. “The Practicum has impacted me; it is a very special program. I used to be a traditional teacher... Now, I have learned to facilitate with tools like active learning and the entrepreneurship initiative,” says Trinidad Chicampo Puye, a facilitator-in-training from Malabo.

The updated Practicum will be a decidedly important strategy for transforming Equatorial Guinea’s classroom, as it allows teachers to turn knowledge acquired through training into visible classroom practices and behaviors. As a result, school activities will focus on children’s learning, making students active participants in their own learning process.

Now that the facilitator training phase is completed, the updated Practicum will be piloted and validated from February 15 to June 15, 2011, in the first-year classrooms of the EUFP Teacher Training College of Malabo and Bata.

Two weeks prior to the start of the pilot phase, PRODEGE planned to present the new



What does the updated Practicum program for facilitators entail?

- Eight units, focused on active learning and the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for school practice.
- Each unit is takes approximately 90 hours, during four consecutive weeks.
- Units are spaced roughly three weeks apart, to allow participants time to put new skills into practice, and to assimilate acquired tools.
- Two *Quality Labs*, designed to simulate real-life classrooms for everyday practice of new didactic methods through microteaching, are used in training.

Practicum to all Malabo and Bata EUFP staff. The sessions will include information sharing as well as demonstrations by facilitators, to ensure an environment favorable to change before the updated Practicum actually begins.

Also on the horizon, development of the second-year of the updated Practicum is planned for February, and the third-year Practicum is slated for May. This first pilot group of the updated Practicum will include 170 pre-service teachers in their first year in Bata, and 93 in Malabo.