

Tanzania

In Tanzania, IOB's Going Global partners with Mzumbe University in Morogoro. Going Global assists Mzumbe University in the development of a Master programme in Development Evaluation. The programme supports the Fuatilia Maji project, which organises community-based monitoring of water resources in the region.

We spoke to Dr. Mursali Mulanzi, who coordinates the Master programme development at Mzumbe, and Doreen Kyando, who helps coordinate the Fuatilia Maji project and is also a PhD student at IOB.

First of all, the elephant in the room... has CoViD-19 significantly impacted Going Global this past year?

Dr. Mulanzi: "Yes, there have of course been negative effects. We expected to have students last year, in June and November. These visits are part of the Going Global project, so there hasn't been student 'output', if you will. We'd also planned staff mobility that we didn't manage to do. Nathalie Holvoet and Sara Dewachter did come here in February, before the crisis began, but the follow-up meeting we had planned in June couldn't take place. That had to be shifted online."

"Digital cooperation will become more important in the future, no doubt. We've learned that it's possible to do certain things virtually which we would have done in person in the past. That's one lesson from CoViD-19."

How are the plans for the Master programme developing?

"We started a few years ago by developing a curriculum. We could build on IOB's experience, because they already have their own Master programme in Development Evaluation and Management. We also

organised capacity building for Mzumbe staff."

"The development of the Master programme has gone through many steps, including a meeting with stakeholders from different sectors, both private, public and non-governmental. They are the ones who need the expertise that we are building."

"By April 2020, we were ready, but then everything shut down because of COVID-19. However, we did manage to submit the programme to the University Senate for approval. The Senate asked us, in light of the pandemic, to integrate more blended learning in the curriculum, which we've done. Now we're waiting for final approval from the Senate. Then it can go to the government for accreditation."

When will the programme start?

"We think we'll be able to start teaching in November 2021. Senate approval should be in soon, and then the Tanzanian government can give its final approval. Hopefully by June we'll start promoting the programme, so we can start teaching in November."

Why develop a programme focused on Monitoring & Evaluation?

"One of the challenges Tanzania faces is a lack of capacity in M&E, to evaluate how and why development interventions are successful or not. Mzumbe already has programmes on project management, but without an emphasis on M&E. We add value by creating an additional programme that does

have that focus."

What has been the added value of doing this in partnership with IOB?

"By developing this programme jointly with IOB, we can use IOB's experience in this domain. We've gotten advice, we've exchanged ideas. All of which makes our programme more complete, more 'attractive' than it might otherwise have been."

"Also important is that, by including IOB staff in teaching at Mzumbe, we give the programme a more international perspective."

Are there challenges in cooperating across borders?

"IOB isn't the first or only international partner we've worked



with of course. What we appreciate about the cooperation with IOB is how intense it is. It's a much closer cooperation than is often the case. In terms of knowledge sharing, Going Global is very beneficial. We're constantly in touch with each other, exchanging ideas."

"Working together with people from different cultural backgrounds is enriching, also for IOB. I'm sure they have picked up some valuable lessons from us too, these past five years. Otherwise they wouldn't want to continue the cooperation, right?" *(laughs)*

"Of course an institution in Belgium has a different cultural background than one in Tanzania. But we've learned from each other, we've managed to come together and bridge those differences, without having to give up our own cultures. The fact that we work well together shows that we accept each other as partners, even with our differences."

"Are we perfectly equal? No, but I believe the relationship is balanced. If it wasn't, we wouldn't work well together. Nobody's perfect, but we are sensitive to each other's needs, and that's what matters."

How do you see the future? What do you expect for Going Global 2.0?

"One of the things all the 'South' partners noticed is that there isn't really any cooperation among ourselves, with the partners in DRC, Nicaragua, the Philippines. We're all cooperating with IOB, but not necessarily with each other. All of us identified that gap as something to address in the future. In phase 2 of Going Global, that's something we feel we need to achieve."

"It's very important for sustainability as well, to have these

international connections. For example, to exchange staff and students not just with IOB, but with each other too. For example, on the subject of community-based monitoring, there's a lot of expertise in the Philippines. So why not have them teach in our programme too, either in person or virtually? That would be very valuable."

"The cooperation with IOB has always had a long-term perspective. We hope Going Global will expand further in future, to include even more partners. With more people involved, there are even more ideas being exchanged." ■

