

## Welcome to the ZESSTA legacy pack

Over the past three years (2015 – 2018), the British Council has supported Zambia's Ministry of General Education (MoGE) and Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) with Technical Assistance under the Zambia Education Sector Support Technical Assistance (ZESSTA) facility. Funded through both UKAid and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), and delivered by the British Council, ZESSTA is tasked with enhancing MoGE and MoHE's capacity to deliver quality education across a broad range of areas including public financial management, human resources, institutional leadership, teacher education, curriculum and assessment, to name a few.

The results across all areas have been significant and a legacy of high quality knowledge products will remain with both Ministries; as will strengthened skills in evidence based policy and planning. However what makes ZESSTA transformational is the way in which the technical assistance facility operates. From the outset the ZESSTA team have been steadfast to their commitment to 'do with, never for', meaning that all support is requested directly by MoGE or MoHE and joint working with Ministry counterparts is a prerequisite. In that way it is truly responsive to Zambia's needs.

The contributions ZESSTA has made to the education sector in Zambia have been noted by Ministry staff at all levels as well as Cooperating Partners and were commended in the independent evaluation of the broader sector support programme in 2017. This is testament to the buy-in ZESSTA has achieved.

Ultimately the success of any technical assistance programme comes down to relationships. Being responsive, flexible and trusted due to an understanding, not only of technical issues, but also the context is essential. The ZESSTA team have worked hard to successfully create and nurture those relationships. There were, of course, bumps along the road and the ZESSTA team and the British Council have learnt valuable lessons.



Photo: ZESSTA Steering Committee, January 2018

This legacy pack attempts to:

- highlight the key successes and challenges so that all stakeholders can learn from the experience and build on it for future technical assistance
- provide a snapshot of the key milestones (timeline and financials) achieved over the life of the facility
- capture the breadth of knowledge products developed with ZESSTA support, including six results papers
- outline a legacy plan that the Ministry has committed to taking forward after the close of ZESSTA
- celebrate the positive strides made by the Ministry with ZESSTA support (in a podcast named 'Green shoots of growth in the education sector').

Operating a TA facility like this can be challenging but ZESSTA has proved that buy-in and long-term capacity development is achievable through responsive, flexible technical assistance.

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