

## TFK programme, funded projects 2022

<p><b>Project title:</b> A Finnish-Mozambican collaboration to build capacity on higher education in food and nutrition sciences</p>	
<p><b>Coordinator</b></p> <p>University of Helsinki</p> <p>Liisa Korkalo liisa.korkalo@helsinki.fi</p>	<p>According to the Global Hunger Index 2021, Mozambique ranks at 106th out of 116 countries and has a serious undernutrition problem. Stunting in children under 5 years of age and micronutrient deficiencies remain highly prevalent. At the same time, overweight and nutrition-related non-communicable diseases are becoming more common in the higher-income population groups. The country has a critical need for professionals who have the expertise to design and implement effective interventions to prevent malnutrition. Currently, the country's capacity to educate nutrition professionals is low. This directly limits improvements in nutrition, but also has indirect consequences: a lack of capacity reduces the possibilities of Mozambican universities to act as a partner in large international projects that are directed to solving malnutrition.</p> <p>The goal of this collaboration is to build capacity at Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (UEM) and Universidade Lúrio (UniLúrio) in giving higher education in nutrition and food sciences. We focus on chemical analysis of food, development and use of food composition databases and methods for assessing nutrient intakes in the population.</p>
<p><b>Partners</b></p> <p>Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Universidade Lúrio</p>	<p>The specific objectives of the project are, to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Organize a two-week intensive course first in Maputo (UEM) and then in Nampula (UniLúrio), Mozambique, with the following topics;             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) assessing nutritional status and dietary intake in various population groups,</li> <li>b) analyzing and monitoring nutrient composition and safety of foods, and</li> <li>c) designing interventions and developing new nutritious food products based on these data</li> </ol> </li> <li>2) Organize student and teacher exchange from Mozambique to Finland to deepen the skills in laboratory analyses of food composition and related areas.</li> </ol>

3) Give joint supervision of Master's theses (i.e. Mozambican teachers take part in supervision of Finnish students' work and/or vice versa).

At the end of the project, we expect the teachers at UEM and UniLúrio to have an increased capacity in MSc and PhD level teaching and in research. We also expect that all participating staff and students from both countries have an increased capacity in applying and teaching the chosen research methodologies in nutrition and food sciences. They also have new insights into combatting nutritional problems. Finally, by the end of the project, we aim to have created an active collaboration between UH and the Mozambican partners that extends beyond the duration of this project.

The long-term aims are that the programs in UEM and UniLúrio are educating nutrition experts with stronger skills and more students (compared to the present) have started pursuing a Master's and doctoral degree. This will further lead to a higher number of conducted dietary studies, which attracts international.



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