

nuffic
meet the world

Orange Knowledge Programme

Annual report 2020



Content

1	Looking back on 2020	3	4	Regional approach	21
2	Key Figures	5	5	Adjusting to Covid-19	25
3	Results per priority theme	7	6	Reflecting on the Orange Knowledge Programme	28
	Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR)	10			
	Security & Rule of Law (SROL)	13			
	Water	16			
	Food & Nutrition Security (FNS)	19	7	Abbreviations	30

1 Looking back on 2020



Looking back on 2020

2020 has proven to be a dynamic year filled with flexibility, resilience and creativity. Both us and our partners had to think on our feet and most of all: rethink the way things are done. We could not have done that alone. The input of our stakeholders, and the intensified contact and swift alignment with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was crucial in adapting the Orange Knowledge Programme to a new reality.

As travel was restricted, our local project partners were essential in providing information on the local context. They were key in monitoring, redesigning and adapting the projects. It resulted in well-balanced ownership of the projects with shared responsibility. Together with the Dutch partners, local partners were in control of innovative decisions that were made on the adjusted implementation during Covid-19.

We can only admire the swift adaptation that our partners made in order to work with Covid-19 and still reach their goals in education. In the end, we are very satisfied with the results and progress that was made over the course of the year, by our partners and by us.



2

Key Figures



Key figures Orange Knowledge Programme 2020

1088



Individual scholarships

Master's
407 Scholarships
30% of total funds awarded

Short courses
681 Scholarships
10% of total funds awarded

92



Group training

Tailor-made Training
47 Grants
7% of total funds awarded

Tailor-made Training +
45 Grants
28% of total funds awarded

15



Institutional
collaboration projects

15 Grants
25% of total funds awarded

16



Alumni grants & activities

12 online events for alumni, or
including alumni

3 special alumni awards granted
for 'impact makers'

1 grant for an alumni activity

Refresher courses*
Calls postponed due to covid-19

*Refresher courses are Group training courses with alumni. They financially fall under the Group training category

Total funds spent per instrument



Gender ratio*



*50% of women participation was achieved for individual scholarships, group training and refresher courses.



**Sexual & Reproductive
Health & Rights**

117 Scholarships
5 Group training
4 Institutional collaboration projects



**Security & Rule
of Law**

128 Scholarships
15 Group training
5 Institutional collaboration projects



**Food & Nutrition
Security**

72 Scholarships
39 Group training
4 Institutional collaboration projects



Water

488 Scholarships
20 Group training
2 Institutional collaboration projects

3

**Results per
priority
theme**



Results per priority theme

The Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP) is focused on Food & Nutrition Security, Water, Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights, and Security & Rule of Law. The main focus is on investments in human capital at an individual, organisational and institutional level through collaboration in education and training to contribute to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 4, 'Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all' and number 17 'Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, as well as SDGs such as zero hunger (SDG 2), good health and wellbeing (SDG 3), gender equality (SDG 5), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), among others.

In 2020 we launched thematic calls on Health, Quality Education for Refugees, and Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights. The themes Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights & Security & the Rule of Law were both given extra attention in 2020 through specific calls and promotion as they were underrepresented in the Orange Knowledge Programme in comparison to our other priority themes.

Photo: Institutional Collaboration Project SEAD WEST in Rwanda by University of Rwanda, AERES, WCDI, Euroconsult Mott MacDonald, HAS University of Applied Sciences, Helicon, Holland Greentech, MSM and Q-Point





Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights



117 Individual scholarships

Master's
67 Scholarships
29% of total funds awarded
in the instrument in 2020

Short courses
50 Scholarships
5% of total funds awarded in
the instrument in 2020



4 Institutional
collaboration projects



Projects in
Bangladesh and Mali



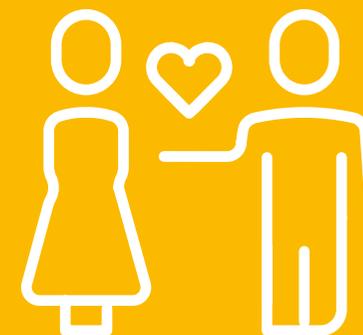
€4,416,656
Budget granted



5 Group training

Tailor-made Training
4 Grants
3% of total funds awarded
in the instrument in 2020

Tailor-made Training +
1 Grant
5% of total funds awarded in
the instrument in 2020



Totals for Individual scholarships, Group training and Institutional collaboration projects with a SRHR component

Orange Knowledge Programme 2020

Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR)

The disruptive impact of Covid-19 has shown the importance of strong health systems and proved that many countries struggle to respond to a global pandemic of this size. Education and training are effective means to deploy in strengthening both the capacity of health professionals and health organisations.

In 2020, Nuffic has developed and published a multi-country Tailor-made Training Plus (TMT+) call to contribute to combating the (impacts) of the Covid-19 crisis through education and training. One of the projects that was awarded through this call, is implemented by the Asian University of Women and the University Medical Centre in Utrecht in Bangladesh where digital curricula are being developed for capacity strengthening in epidemiology and public health. This TMT+ initiative shows the flexibility of the Orange Knowledge Programme which makes it possible to directly respond to urgent matters and develop interventions targeting the needs of both individuals and organisations to tackle these challenges.

For the 2020 final calls for scholarships, a strong focus was on study programmes related to the priority theme of 'Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights'. For the Master's scholarships, this has led to an increase in scholarships on SRHR related subjects by 38%. Furthermore, in November 2020 a TMT+ call was developed specifically targeting initiatives related to SRHR. The central aim of this call was to strengthen the collaboration between education institutes and NGOs on SRHR by increasing quality SRHR services with improved skills training at community level.

Impact Maker: Salomé Phiri

Funded with an Orange Knowledge Scholarship, Salomé was able to follow the training 'Media and campaigning for social development' at RNTC in the Netherlands, while working for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as a District Information Officer under the Zambia News and Information Services. In 2020, Salomé has won an Orange Knowledge Impact Award for her contribution to preventing child marriages and adolescent pregnancies in rural Zambian communities. [Read more about Salomé's impact in an interview on our website.](#)





Security & Rule of Law



128 Individual scholarships

Master's

62 Scholarships
20% of total funds awarded in the instrument in 2020

Short courses

66 Scholarships
6% of total funds awarded in the instrument in 2020



5 Institutional collaboration projects



Projects in Rwanda and Indonesia



€4,678,480
Budget granted



15 Group training

Tailor-made Training

6 Grants
4% of total funds awarded in the instrument in 2020

Tailor-made Training +

9 Grants
27% of total funds awarded in the instrument in 2020



Totals for Individual scholarships, Group training and Institutional collaboration projects with a SROL component

Orange Knowledge Programme 2020

Security & Rule of Law (SROL)

In Security & Rule of Law, we aim to promote legitimate stability to resolve and prevent violent conflict, to protect people and as a basis for sustainable development. We contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 16, 'Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions'.

Most interventions of the Orange Knowledge Programme address (future) staff of institutions engaged in the rule of law, such as the judiciary, juvenile justice and law enforcement agencies. They are reached indirectly through strengthening juridical education (for instance, faculties of law) and directly through targeting the training capacity of these institutions.



In addition, capacity support is geared towards strengthening accountability mechanisms through support in human resource development, such as support to anti-corruption agencies and safeguarding space for journalism and civil society. Capacity support in several conflict-affected and fragile settings have an additional focus in contributing to institutions engaged in legitimate stability, reconciliation and sustainable peace with gender-based violence as an important cross-cutting issue.

While the majority of interventions aim to improve or consolidate the rule of law and inclusive governance, present-day challenges in some regions that are part of the programme require a renewed focus on the knowledge and skills of work force engaged in the justice and security domain, more specifically, cybersecurity, countering violent extremism, maritime security and migration. A common challenge among most beneficiary organisations is translating policy into practice and theoretical knowledge into hands-on skills to operate effectively in the security and the rule of law sector.

Photo: Institutional Collaboration Project on strengthening legal education in Eastern Indonesia by Universitas Mataram and Van Vollenhoven Institute (Leiden University Law School).

Tailor-made Training on effective peacebuilding and conflict management strategies for peace in Yemen

Yemen is facing the world's biggest humanitarian crisis. In addition to the conflict that has been going on for 6 years, the famine and the corona crisis are putting millions of people on the run at risk. More than 24 million people are dependent on humanitarian support.

Within the context of civil war, the role of women, youth and marginalised groups in conflict resolution and transitional justice has been strengthened through a Tailor-made Training by upgrading the knowledge and capacities of staff of three NGO's: NGOs Gusoor Organization for Peace Co-existence, Sheba Youth Foundation and Yemen Peace School Organization. The training sessions to the three NGO's have been provided by BELink Consultancy specialised in effective peacebuilding, conflict management and integrated transitional justice.

Through the training, the understanding of advocacy, networking and effective communication has been enhanced, resulting in an advocacy campaign plan to support interventions at local level to increase community engagement, with focus on women participation in political decision-making. Moreover, participants were assigned to provide follow-up training sessions to youth and women in the communities, ensuring sustainable dissemination of knowledge. As a result, the gained knowledge has been

transferred to about 40 community leaders after the training. In addition, at least 30% of marginalized and discriminated groups are reached through the training.





Water



488 Individual scholarships

Master's

184 Scholarships
55% of total funds awarded in the instrument in 2020

Short courses

304 Scholarships
15% of total funds awarded in the instrument in 2020



2 Institutional collaboration projects



Projects in Kenya and Vietnam



€1,200,000
Budget granted



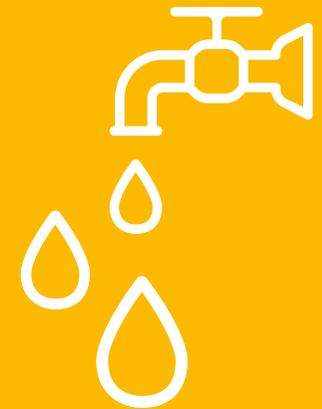
27 Group training

Tailor-made Training

12 Grants
6% of total funds awarded in the instrument in 2020

Tailor-made Training +

8 Grants
16% of total funds awarded in the instrument in 2020



Totals for Individual scholarships, Group training and Institutional collaboration projects with a Water component

Orange Knowledge Programme 2020



Water

In Water, we aim to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6). In 2020, the pandemic made clear that water availability and in particular the WASH sector is key in eradicating the pandemic. Water projects are more relevant than ever: hygienical treatment and reuse of wastewater have become even more important.

An example of how this is being realised within the Orange Knowledge Programme is the institutional collaboration project [Strengthening skills development for wastewater treatment and reuse in agriculture](#) in a recently established higher TVET programme (WATRA) in Jordan through which IHE Delft, World Water Academy and Al Balqa Applied University equip and upgrade a wastewater treatment plant and develop a Diploma programme on wastewater treatment.

In recent years, climate and the nexus water-food-energy has become more prominent in Dutch foreign policy and programmes. Climate is one of the cross-cutting priority themes within the Ministry's programmes. The Ministry's Theory of Change (ToC) towards climate focuses on climate adaptation and climate mitigation, which are linked to almost all sectors of society. The role of climate as a theme becomes visible in the priority themes Food and Nutrition Security and Water. The actual role of climate within the Orange Knowledge Programme is context-dependent and demand-driven. It differs per project and partner country if and how climate is integrated. In Institutional Collaboration Projects within the theme of Water, all projects have at least one long-term indicator related to climate.

Strengthening skills development for Wastewater Treatment and Reuse in Agriculture in a recently established higher TVET programme in Jordan (WATRA)

Wastewater treatment and reuse in agriculture is a priority of the Jordanian government. To increase the inflow of professionals with hands-on knowledge and skills, Al-Balqa Applied University (BAU) started a higher TVET programme that addresses this need. However, the staff and curriculum are only partially in place. With this project, IHE Delft and the WorldWaterAcademy support BAU to fully develop the curriculum using the concept of objectives-based aligned learning and to integrate new educational activities into the curriculum.

In September 2020 a stakeholder survey on the curriculum design was carried out by the project partners. The results showed the Jordanian water sector in both private and public utilities are suffering from lack of skilled engineers in both water and waste water topics during implementation and operation. 83% of participants agreed that a Technical Diploma program in Water treatment engineering is a valuable addition to the existing civil engineering BSc programs.

In order to teach hands-on knowledge and skills, WATRA's demonstration site plays a central role in the new curriculum as courses are being taught at the site, aimed at the specific target groups of university students, operators and managers of the Water Authority of Jordan and farmer associations. The site is now integrated into the university structure.

[Read more about our project](#)





Food & Nutrition Security



72 Individual scholarships

Master's
72 Scholarships
25% of total funds awarded
 in the instrument

Short courses*
0 Scholarships
0% of total funds awarded in
 the instrument

*short course scholarships were awarded under the broader theme of education



4 Institutional collaboration projects



Projects in Indonesia,
 Bangladesh and Horn
 of Africa region



€2,675,699
 Budget granted



39 Group training

Tailor-made Training
22 Grants
12% of total funds awarded
 in the instrument

Tailor-made Training +
17 Grants
43% of total funds awarded
 in the instrument

Totals for Individual scholarships, Group training and Institutional collaboration projects with a FNS component



Orange Knowledge Programme 2020

Food & Nutrition Security (FNS)

Many of the Orange Knowledge Programme partner countries struggle with food-related problems. Therefore, Food & Nutrition Security is a key focus area in development programmes such as the Orange Knowledge Programme. With the Orange Knowledge Programme we aim to reduce malnutrition, promote inclusive and sustainable agricultural growth and create ecologically sustainable food systems.

Over the years the role of climate has shown its importance in the field of Food and Nutrition Security. In Orange Knowledge projects the long-term impact 'Create ecologically sustainable food systems' measures whether projects that deal with food and nutrition security include outputs that make agricultural land use more eco-friendly and shock resilient.



Photo from Delphy: training in Tunisia on irrigation and fertilisation under saline condition with the Salt Doctors and LSFPAAV Bouchrik.

Climate Smart Agriculture for a Resilient Coastal Bangladesh

In Bangladesh an Institutional Collaboration Project is being implemented in the field of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). CSA is an approach that aims at ensuring food security and increasing the resilience of agricultural systems to climate change while lowering greenhouse gas emissions. That is exactly what this FNS project aims to achieve for the Bangladeshi coastal area by training Bangladeshi key staff, to advance research capacity, whilst improving the link between university education and the private sector at the same time.

The project brings together Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU), an ambitious university located in the most vulnerable part of Bangladesh, with the Dutch Wageningen University & Research. The project aims to establish a new long-term partnership between the two institutions in order to strengthen Climate Smart Agriculture education and research capability of PSTU as a coastal knowledge institute. With the project's teaching strategy particularly focusing on preparing students for the future labour market and involving the youth of Bangladesh in developing a more climate change resilient agricultural sector, improved income and labour perspective are some of the expected outcomes of this great new project.

As part of the project's outputs, in 2020 the project partners have made significant progress with the development of a CSA institute (among which a MSc programme is being developed),

collaborative research in the field of CSA, and staff training. For the latter, 10 post-doc trainings are being implemented, two PhD positions are being fulfilled and local training is being given.

[Read more about our project 'Climate Smart Agriculture for Resilient Coastal Bangladesh'.](#)



4

Regional approach



Regional approach

In addition to our thematic calls, we launched several regional calls in the Horn of Africa, Sahel and MENA region. In 2020 our regional approach took shape and resulted in many regional efforts. Not only did we kick off several regional projects, but we also organised regional events such as the 'Meet Holland' event for new scholarship holders and several alumni events. A great added value to our regional efforts was brought by our local staff who have proven to be of tremendous added value given their local expertise and presence. Even though we were unable to travel in 2020, we still had eyes and ears on the ground in numerous countries.

Horn of Africa

The regional programme '[Capacity strengthening for resilience in the Horn of Africa](#)' was launched in order to address root causes of instability, migration and hunger and promote employment for youth, women and vulnerable groups in Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, with Ethiopia being a hub to serve the other countries in the region.



As part of this regional programme, two Institutional Collaboration Projects (ICP) and 8 TMT+ were selected and implemented in 2020. In addition to the regional projects, extra scholarships for Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan were made available. We actively promoted the extra scholarships which led to 64 scholarships for the region: 23 grants to Somalia, 19 grants to South Sudan and 22 grants to Sudan.

Sahel

In the Orange Knowledge Programme, we have implemented projects in the Sahel region for several years. The common challenges and needs of the region have become of increasing importance. Therefore, we conducted a needs assessment mission in the Sahel region in February 2020. Through this mission, we were able to identify Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights and Security and Rule of Law as priority themes for the Orange Knowledge Programme in the region. The countries Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso were defined as focus countries, with the addition of North Benin due to its geographical proximity and similar development challenges.



With our initiative '[Capacity strengthening for Resilience in the Sahel](#)' we aim to contribute to strengthen these fragile states. In 2020, the initiative resulted in two institutional projects on [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights \(RESPECT SDSR\)](#) and [Security and the Rule of Law](#), and 4 TMT+ calls. Meanwhile, successful projects such as the Benin project developing entrepreneurial skills for youth were highlighted in [a video](#) we compiled on a young female entrepreneur Célia Fiogbe.

Quality Education for Refugees

Unique to the Orange Knowledge Programme is that we provide access to quality education and vocational training for refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities in Ethiopia, Uganda, Sudan, Kenya, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. Our '[Quality Education for Refugees](#)' activities aim to create an environment for socio-economic inclusion, improve access to and the quality of education as well as strengthen the resilience of host communities.



In close collaboration with the Netherlands embassies in the relevant countries, 13 TMT+ initiatives were chosen to improve student pathways providing support to refugees and host communities before and during tertiary education and helping them link better with the labour market. All initiatives are complementary to the work that the Netherlands implements in

the PROSPECTS Partnership, in which the World Bank Group, the International Finance Corporation, UNICEF, UNHCR and ILO works together for improving the hosting and protection of refugees in the countries of their origin.

Regional alumni events

In 2020 we initiated Meet Holland events to welcome all OKP scholarship holders who had to start their study programmes online during Covid-19. The events provided us with an opportunity to connect with scholarship holders. Meet Holland events offered an online alternative to the physical pre-departure meetings embassies organised before Covid-19.

In addition to meeting up online with our newest scholarship holders, we also met up with our alumni through the [Orange Knowledge Exchange Series](#). This first online Holland alumni event in the MENA region connected alumni from 11 countries. Participants met up online during a week of inspiring webinars and networking sessions on topics like water management, water diplomacy, digitalization and youth employment.

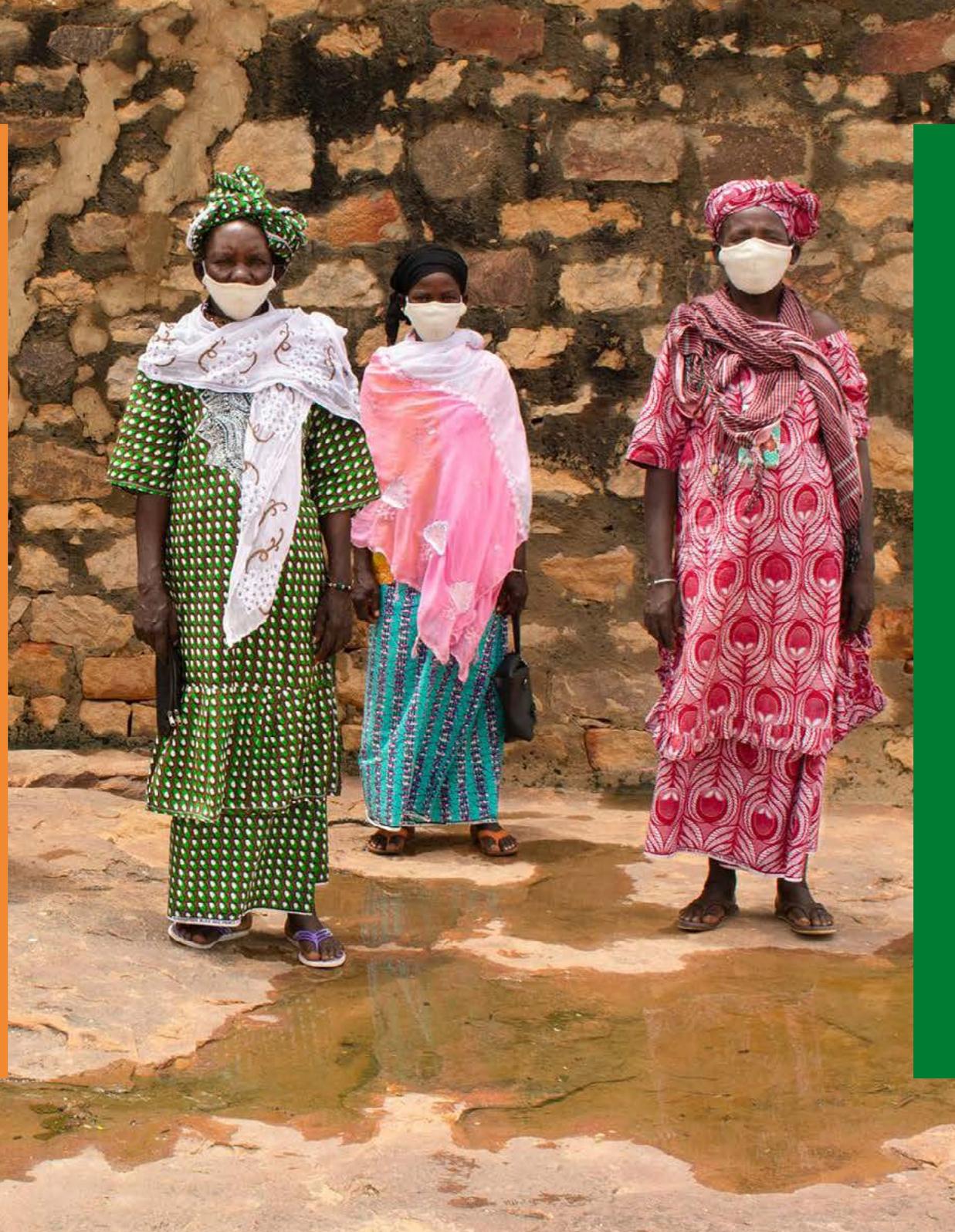
Several regional alumni events were also hosted in the East Africa region as association from Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia worked together in the organisation of online educational fairs or thematic knowledge exchange activities.

Apart from the events, we also established several online country communities on the [NL Alumni Network](#) to facilitate networking and communication between alumni and embassies. Via the Holland Alumni Network alumni can be deployed by the embassies as brokers, facilitators and knowledge agents for cooperation with the Netherlands.



5

Adjusting to Covid-19



Adjusting to Covid-19

For education institutions and training providers adjusting to Covid-19 meant having to reassess their way of sharing knowledge. The shift from in-person learning to remote teaching across the world was accelerated by the pandemic. The effects of this shift reverberated in the projects, trainings and scholars partaking in the Orange Knowledge Programme.

Covid-19 highlighted the urgency of digitalisation in education. It now seems to be inevitable that education will be more digital in the future. At Nuffic, we have the ambition to facilitate the digital transition and capacity development of local knowledge institutions in our partner countries. We therefore encourage and support Dutch higher education institutions and TVET institutions in tailored capacity building of partner institutions towards a digital future spurring innovation. But we do bear in mind that digitalisation is not a cure-all. Face-to-face contact, acquiring intercultural skills remain indispensable elements in teaching and training.

For some, unfortunately, online education led to a less inclusive character due to their digital access or digital literacy. For others, digitalisation has led to a more inclusive character of education. We see that women from regions dealing with gender disparity often experience a lower threshold to participate in training sessions as they do not need to travel to the Netherlands. The influence of digitalisation on our cross-cutting themes 'Gender & Inclusion' and 'Labour Market Needs' shed new light on the topic, leaving us with new food for thought on these themes.



Marginalised communities reached under Covid-19

Tunde Okelarin, a community health manager in Lagos Nigeria, participated in a Tailor-made Training for health professionals to improve his managerial skills. Using 'Challenge Action planning' he mobilised his team to reach out to the most marginalised communities to provide the health services they need, including how to prevent Covid-19. "The programme awoke the lion in me!". [Watch our video.](#)



Developing online tools for vocational students

Implementers and institutions have shown great resilience in keeping the Orange Knowledge Programme going. And not only for the short term. We see many online/hybrid learning solutions that most definitely will remain in the future. One of the many examples that were brought to our attention was of an international institutional collaboration project in which Ugandan, Ethiopian and Kenyan vocational education institutions collaborate with a consortium of Dutch education providers. They are co-developing an online platform for practical education in agriculture. Check out how inspiring this platform is, for both teachers and students across borders. [Watch our video.](#)



6

Reflecting on the Orange Knowledge Programme



Reflecting on the Orange Knowledge Programme

As the Orange Knowledge Programme is over halfway through its duration, we reflect on the programme so far.

In an externally conducted midterm review, the relevance and quality of the Orange Knowledge Programme and its results were highlighted and the added value to the Dutch development cooperation's focus and themes was underlined. Naturally, the review also touched upon some points for improvement for a more focused approach:

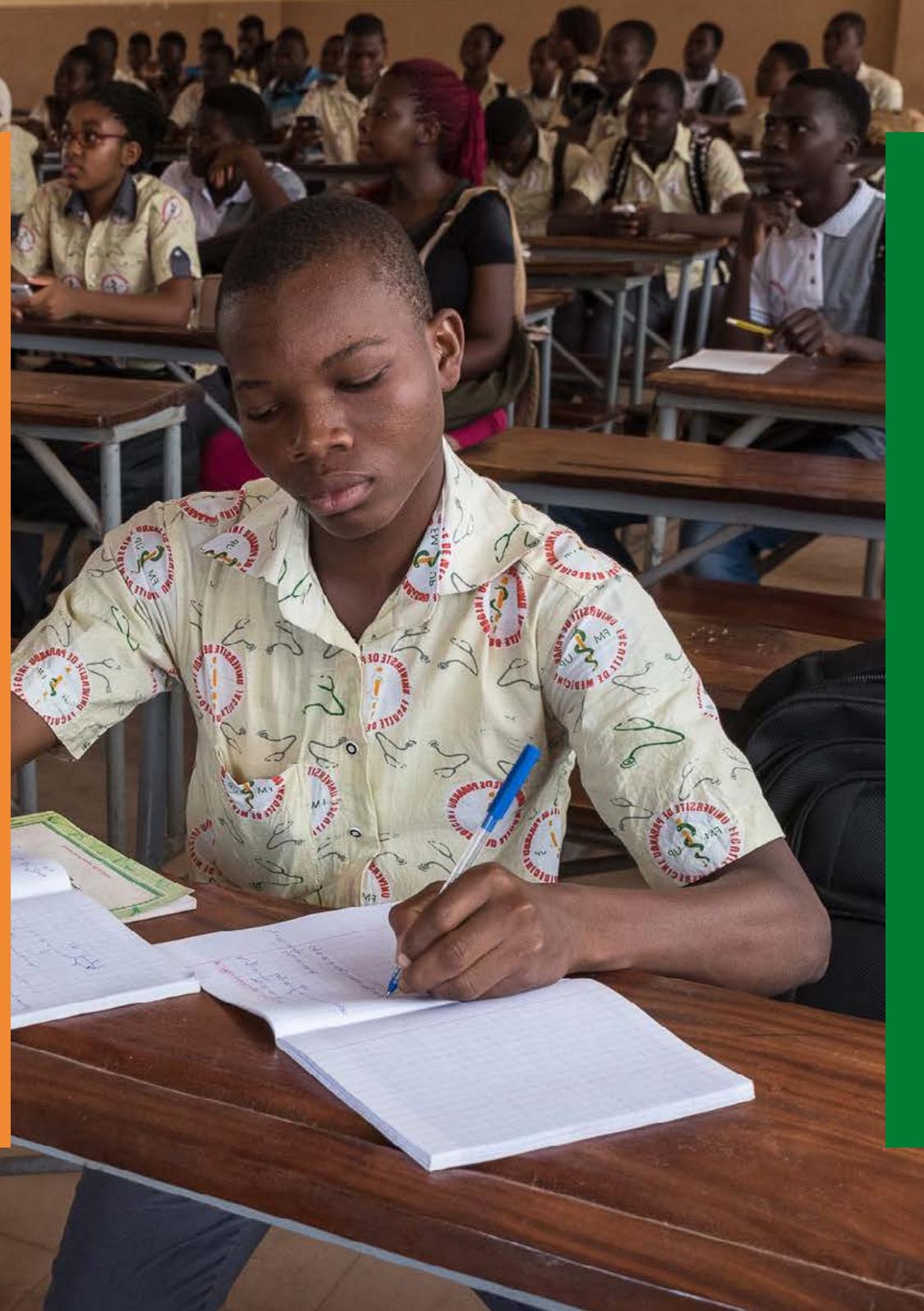
- To bring more focus into the Orange Knowledge Programme, we reduced our country list from 54 to 38 countries. This means that as of fall 2020, Armenia, Bhutan, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cuba, Georgia, Nepal, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Zimbabwe were no longer part of the Orange Knowledge Programme country list.
- In order to have a more focused approach in the Full Programme partner countries, we have further aligned our Country Plans of Implementation to the Multi Annual Strategic Plans of the respective Netherlands Embassies, and we have increased our local representation in strategic areas such as Francophone Africa and the Middle-East.
- We have started preparations for country and regional meetings through which we want to solidify achievements by facilitating sustained exchange of knowledge and expertise.

- Steps have been made to further integrate instruments within countries and regions in order to deepen achievements.
- Security and Rule of Law and Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights were given more focus in the published calls of Q4 2020 and thereafter in order to ensure a more equal divide among the 4 priority themes in the Orange Knowledge Programmes.
- We improved and simplified our Monitoring & Evaluation system by reducing the number of outcomes and outputs in our log frame formats for Tailor-made Trainings and Tailor-made Trainings Plus.
- We have increased our communication with the Embassies of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and implementers through online meetings and regular updates.

Apart from working on the abovementioned points of improvement, we will also be working more towards consolidating our impact and solidifying our project results. We will be intensifying our regional way of working by appointing regional managers and focusing more on regional similarities and trends.

7

Abbreviations



Abbreviations

BAU	Al-Balqa Applied University
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
FNS	Food and Nutrition Security
ICP	Institutional collaboration projects
MENA	Middle East and Northern Africa
MSc	Master of Science
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OKP	Orange Knowledge Programme
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
PSTU	Patuakhali Science and Technology University
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights
SROL	Security and Rule of Law
TMT	Tailor-made Training
TMT+	Tailor-made Training Plus
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Colofon

Photos

Institute for Social Studies (page 3, 5);
Graduation Ceremony KIT Royal Tropical
Institute, photo by KopiSusu Fotografie (page
4); [Project SEAD WEST](#); Viewpoint and Kani
Sissoko of Yamarou PHOTO (page 15, 24);
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Save the planet

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