

## Information and Communications Technology Case Study

Before the ATTSVE project began, instructors, as well as students, faced huge challenges with IT at Agricultural Technical & Vocational Education Training (ATVET) colleges. The ATVET colleges had, few or no computers for students and staff, no or low internet access, and zero ability to provide interactive learning. It was difficult for students to take and pass computer based COC exams as ICT courses were non-existent and not incorporated into the curriculum.

### ATTSVE's support with ICT

The project added strong internet, computer laboratories (some female only) and interactive smart classrooms. The project procured servers, installation of internet services, 543 desktops, 46 laptops, 108 projectors (for smart classrooms), 59 projector screens, 25 printers, 10 photocopier/scanners, 15 stabilizers, 8 dust blowers and 420 items of related furniture. Improved ICT facilities have enhanced teaching, learning, networking, and overall education. ICT has helped other departments of the ATVETs as well. The gender office is putting the technology to good use as the staff can now use it for phone and video calls, emails and site visits. Computer laboratories for female students are established at each of the 4 ATVETs to address gender related challenges on accessing computers, especially in evenings and at weekends.

Smart classrooms, LCD projectors and white boards have been introduced by ATTSVE

### Impact on students

Students have hugely improved computer skills through practising on computers in the computer laboratory as well as with the aid of good internet accessibility through better network and WiFi connections. All colleges are now delivering computer classes as part of their curriculum, a big change. With the improved network connections and projectors, students are now able to use their mobile phones and college computers freely which encourages them to attend college course classes on a regular basis to learn more through videos, pictures, and images. As a result of these changes, more students are passing their Occupational Competency Assessment (COC) exams which are to be taken on a computer and previously had a lower pass rate due to lack of familiarity with computers, and having to travel to COC centers at other colleges. Due to the improved technology at four ATVETs are now used as COC Assessment Centres for their regions and some for non-agricultural TVET programs as well. This provided income generation for the colleges, as well as making the exam process easier for their students.



*Student computer classes at Nejo ATVET*

ICT facilities have provided the students with valuable work based skills development, as computers are an essential tool for the modern workforce and improved opportunities to access any kind of information – be it college course-related or to find job opportunities. This is because the students do not have access to the internet anywhere else in their region.

“We get things done in time, as we can easily search information in order to do our assignments and homework. We feel 100% more connected to the outside world because of improved IT in our college.”

a student mentions thanking ATTSVE for the support it has provided. ATTSVE has reduced the student to computer ratio from

69:1 in Woreta and Soddo ATVETs and 0:1 in Maichew and Woreta to: Maichew 18:1, Woreta 15:1, Nejo

23:1 and Soddo 14:1. This huge achievement is reflected by 94% of students interviewed believing that their institution has improved ICT platforms, from a baseline of 42%.

### Impact on instructors

With the help of smart classrooms, proper internet connections and the latest LCD projectors, teaching is much easier for instructors. They are now able to prepare training materials in the form of PowerPoint presentations which was not feasible before ATTSVE enhanced ICT facilities. Using the new ICT technology such as LCD projectors and whiteboards, they have come a long way from just using blackboards and chalk to do all their teaching.

There is also the added benefit of being able to connect with peers in the outside world, “I am now properly using

Telegram, Facebook, emails and other means of social media due to improved ICT facilities in our college,” mentions an instructor from the Nejo ATVET college. Instructors are also able to attend various online trainings, workshops and webinars due to improved IT. This huge success is reflected by 96% of instructors from a baseline of 18% are confident to use ICT technologies for teaching and learning.



*Instructor teaching in a smart classroom at Nejo ATVET*

Improved ICT facilities have enhanced teaching, learning, networking, and overall education.

### Connectivity in the future

Students and instructors are extremely grateful for how ATTSVE’s support with ICT has revolutionized their teaching and learning. A challenge is to ensure the good condition of the ICT equipment for the use of future generations of students. Hopefully in the future, the colleges will generate sufficient income to continue to expand their ICT and become college leaders in modern education delivery.