

West Africa Open Education Platform (WAOEduP)

What is the Initiative about?

The West Africa Open Education Platform is a free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platform for teachers and students in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Gambia, Ghana, and Nigeria. Trained and qualified teachers in Sierra Leone use the platform to publish West African Examinations Council curriculum-based course content. Students in West Africa use the platform to learn and collaborate with their peers and facilitators. Students are able to test their knowledge using cognitive simulation exams, using West African Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (**WASSCE**), Basic Education Certificate Examination (**BECE**), and National Primary School Examination (**NPSE**) past questions for the years 2000 to 2019. We believe the content can be used by any student in West Africa who has to sit for one or more of these exams.

What is our Mission?

Our mission is to leverage open technology solutions to provide free and quality education to everyone in West Africa, starting with Sierra Leone.

What is our Vision?

We imagine a Sierra Leone where

- Literacy rate for all people aged 10 and above is 99%.
- Unemployment rate is below 2%.
- No child is born at risk of ending up on the street.
- Women have the same access to education as men
- Citizens are equipped with the knowledge and understanding of how to contain and prevent diseases.
- More than 60% of its citizens use technology for learning, working, and entertainment

What will the final platform look like after the pilot?

A learning platform to **create, manage, publish and distribute quality open educational resources** in digital formats (video, audio, HTML, SCORM and ebooks) with or without electricity grid and internet connection using smart networked solutions and renewable energy that does not require citizens to have an active high speed internet connection or electricity supplied from the national or community grid.

Citizens will receive free and quality education daily from the comfort of their homes, community centres or in school. They choose their learning paths, track their progress, practice what has been studied, compete, collaborate, and receive badges when they complete a series of courses and practice exams and receive a certificate of completion.

What is the Current Status of the Effort?

- The platform has been developed and is available today at <https://mooc.edu.sl>
- We have purchased WASSCE/BECE/NPSE past papers from 2000 to 2019 and currently digitizing them for upload into the platform.
- We have created the structure of the various subjects in the platform for online learning.
- We are hiring teachers who will start working on Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020.
- We plan to officially launch the pilot of the platform on July 1st, 2020 so that NPSE students can start using it right away, our team is working diligently to get it out quickly.

Where do I find more information?

- Visit <http://waoedup.org/> to learn more about the initiative
- Visit <https://mooc.edu.sl/> to sign up and get ready to start using the platform on July 1st, 2020
- Visit <https://bit.ly/waoedup-donation> to support the initiative with a donation
- Visit <https://bit.ly/demo-video-mobile> to view a mobile demonstration of the platform
- Visit <https://bit.ly/demo-video-desktop> to view a desktop demonstration of the platform

How can you help?

- Visit <https://bit.ly/waoedup-donation> or <http://waoedup.org/donate> to support the initiative with an online donation. We use the donations to pay the salaries of teachers and give stipend to volunteers
- You can also use **CashApp** with the tag \$waoedup or phone numbers +1 (646) 478 7317 or +1 (917) 623 4281.
- If you are in Sierra Leone
- You can donate using +232 (76) 617550 with Orange Money.
- You can deposit money into our UBA account # 540310030001481, Account Name: TpISENT (SL) Limited or write a cheque to TpISENT (SL) Limited and call Mr. Mohamed A. Jalloh at +232 (79) 408180
- Raise awareness about digital learning platforms and like our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/waoedup>
- Co-sponsor the initiative so that we can involve as many quality teachers as possible.
- Refer us or collaborate with us to raise funds to take it to the next level (i.e. create the free full blown open digital course content for all WASSCE, BECE and NPSE subjects)
- Volunteer to create and publish content
- Volunteer to validate answers to past questions and provide detail solutions in the form of short two (2) to three (5) minutes videos
- Any other way you think you can help bring this initiative to live.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the initiative.

(1) Who is the current owner of this platform?

The West Africa Open Education Platform is owned and operated by TpISENT (SL) Limited. TpISENT is a leading professional services company providing ICT consultancy, management consultancy, technology platforms, software development, User Experience Design in Sierra Leone with over 50 years of combined experience.

(2) Who owns the content published in the platform?

TpISENT owns the content created by TpISENT-affiliated teachers (hired and paid by the company). Where TpISENT does not own the content, full copyright details will be provided. The Platform also uses content that is freely available on the internet for anyone to use.

(3) Who creates the digital course content?

Digital course content is created by trained and qualified teachers mainly based in Sierra Leone. These teachers are hired by TpISENT to create the content. TpISENT trains the teachers on how to create and publish the content on the platform.

(4) How is this platform funded?

The platform is primarily funded by TpISENT and generous donations from people in Sierra Leone and outside Sierra Leone. In the future, we expect to receive funding from donors and other funding agencies interested in our work.

(5) How much does it cost to use this platform?

This platform is available free of charge to students from any West African country. School administrators, teachers and parents who are trained and qualified to teach can also use the platform to create and publish their own digital course content free. Students will need an internet connection of their own to access the platform.

(6) What subjects are covered?

The objective of the platform is to cover all senior secondary, junior secondary and primary school subjects covered by WASSCE, BECE, and NPSE, respectively, in Sierra Leone and other English west African countries that are part of the West African Examination Council.

(7) What can I use this platform for?

Students use this platform to study online, test their knowledge, understanding, and readiness for WASSCE, BECE, and NPSE through simulation exams for objective tests.

(8) How will this platform help me pass WASSCE/BECE/NPSE?

You can use this platform to prepare for your WASSCE/BECE/NPSE examination. Our simulation exams/practice exams cover past questions and answers from 2000 to 2019. Twenty years! Your practice exam will be graded immediately upon submission to show you how you are doing. You will receive feedback with solutions to each question you got right and/or wrong. The solutions will be in the form of short two (2) to three (3) minutes videos with links to our course content covering the topic.

(9) How can I get involved with this project?

Use the following contact information to reach out to us or visit <http://waoedup.org/get-involved>

Phone + WhatsApp in Freetown, Sierra Leone: +232 (76) 617 550, +232 (79) 408 180

Phone + WhatsApp in the United States: +1 (212) 710 2911, + 1 (917) 623 4281 +1 (469) 618 8840