



CAMEROON

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GUIDELINES FROM COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING (COL)

1. Key challenges and opportunities (not more than 3 each) for 'learning for development' in your country
2. Status of distance education/e-learning in your country
3. Identify (not more than 5) top priorities that you would like COL to take up during the next Three Year Plan 2012-15.

CAMEROON

Key Challenges and Opportunities

- Absence of national body to manage distance education
- Absence of policy framework
- Shortage of local expertise

Status of ODE in Cameroon

Policies

- A Draft Policy Document for Open and Distance Education for Cameroon is pending approval.

Teacher Education

- The University of Buea runs a four-year distance education program in Education, which recruits students to study for a Bachelor in Education (B.Ed.). Candidates for training are primary and nursery school teachers seeking career development. Course writing is facilitated through cooperation with the National Open University of Nigeria under the RETRIDAL initiative.

Basic Education

- A workshop on Sensitisation on Open Schooling, co-sponsored by COL was organised in 2009, while another workshop organised in 2010 dwelt on curriculum design for open schools.

Higher Education

- Two virtual universities went operational in Cameroon in 2010. One national and the other, a sub regional virtual university, were established within the framework of the “Pan-African e-network project”, resulting from cooperation between the Government of India, the African Union, and the Government of Cameroon. Masters Degree programs are offered in various fields. Courses are delivered by videoconferencing from Madras University, as well as the Indira Ghandi National Open University in India.
- Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), under the accreditation and quality assurance of a university in Quebec is supporting three universities in e-learning course delivery. Students take online degree programs at Bachelors and Masters levels: The universities are the University of Dschang (IUT Fotso Victor College of Technology), University of Yaounde I (National Polytechnique) and University of Douala (College of Technology).

Infrastructure

- The Institute of Digital University Governance in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon, is a support unit providing pedagogical and technical ICT support, as well as digital connectivity to the eight State-run universities in Cameroon. The institute comprises an online library or documentation centre, a science and technology centre and a centre for distance learning.

TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2012-2015 (NOT MORE THAN FIVE)

1. Developing the capacity and skills of ODL tutors in the teaching and learning process.
2. Finalising a national policy framework for ODL in Cameroon.
3. Follow-up on dual-mode provision at the universities where this already exists and expansion to dual-mode provision elsewhere.
4. Establishment of a national body to manage the distance education.
5. Setting up a National Open University, as well as open schools.