



GHANA

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COL PROPOSED ACTIVITIES IN GHANA FOR 2012-2015

GUIDELINES

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.

Key Challenges and Opportunities

1. Lack/inadequacy of appropriate local expertise and capacity
2. Lack of appropriate content

Status of ODE in Ghana

Policies

- Nation lacks a policy document for ODL
- No monitoring system and quality assurance system for ODL and especially for e-learning
- There is however an ICT for Education policy which was culled out of a national ICT policy

Infrastructure

- Four public universities are now dual mode, offering ODL to their students through print
- A few private universities are offering ODL programs from foreign universities on franchise system
- President's Special Initiative for Distance Learning offers TV programmes that cover the school syllabuses in the different subject areas. A new structure has now

been put in place, the Centre for National Distance learning and Open Schooling (CENDLOS) to replace this.

- COL through Mr. Ed Du Vivier helped to develop a document to assist CENDLOS to offer sustainable open schooling in Ghana.
- UCC and UEW are now putting up their own study centres

Teacher education

- UCC and UEW offer programmes for teacher educators in basic schools; in addition, UEW offers a program technical teacher education.

PRIORITY AREAS

The activities in this paper cover requests from the Ministries of Education, Agriculture and Health. These activities are:

1. Open Schooling
2. Upgrading of Pupil Teachers in Basic Schools
3. Agricultural enterprises Training Programme
4. Community Health Nursing Training through Distance Learning
5. Dual mode at Koforidua Polytechnic
6. Sanitation in the Market Place with Mobile Technology

1. Open Schooling

The Ministry of Education has created a new unit aimed at harmonising and regulating distance learning in the country. It is known as the Centre for National Distance Learning and Open Schooling (CENDLOS).

COL conducted a survey of the need for an open school in Ghana. Based on that outcome, Ghana is inviting COL to follow up on the report and assist the Centre for National Distance Learning and Open Schooling (CENDLOS) to draw up and implement plans for the creation of an open school in the country.

CENDLOS hopes to adopt and adapt courses already developed in open schooling and by VUSSC which have relevance to Ghana.

2. Upgrading of Pupil Teachers in Basic Schools

The huge gap in teacher-pupil ratio in Ghana gave birth to the engagement of untrained and unqualified teachers in the education system. Over the years, the contribution of this category of teachers has been accepted as vital and indispensable. However, if these teachers are given some professional pedagogical training, their services would be more valuable in teaching and learning.

The Ministry of Education through the Ghana Education service invites COL to formulate a short-term programme (using TESSA resources) which would equip untrained and unqualified teachers at the Primary and Junior Secondary levels with basic teaching skills that would enhance class performance and eventually set these teachers up for further training.

3. Agricultural enterprises Training Programme

The aim of this programme by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with CENDLOS, is to employ face-to-face and distance learning to

- a) Assist and encourage the youth to stay in the rural community and not drift to the cities in search for non-existing jobs;
- b) Equip young boys and girls with farming and entrepreneurial skills in processing and marketing.

Target Group:

Junior High School leavers and early leavers, age 15 and above

Training Content:

Contents will be prepared for fishing, animal and crop sectors of agriculture. Marketing and processing of agricultural commodities will be included.

Number:

30 learners in each group, two sessions

Coverage:

Start with five regions initially and eventually all ten regions.

Duration:

Three months per session

Facilitators:

CENDLOS and Ministry of Agriculture

4. Community Health Nursing Training through Distance Learning

This project was initiated by COL in the past but was not completed. The need to offer community health nursing through distance learning is still valid and urgent. Although there has been a change in the leadership at the Community Health Nursing Training School in Winneba, the team is still at post to continue. The University of Education's

Centre for Distance Learning will collaborate with CENDLOS to revive and complete the project. Technical support from COL will be needed.

5. Dual mode at Koforidua Polytechnic

The management of the Koforidua Polytechnic decided that by the end of the 2011 academic year, four courses namely computer science, computer network management, hospitality and electrical/electronic engineering should be developed as pilot programmes for launching the polytechnic into a dual mode institution. The Rector has constituted a team to plan the move with some assistance from CENDLOS; technical assistance will be required from COL.

The polytechnic will therefore require technical support from COL in the planning, training, formulating and launching processes.

6. Sanitation in the Market Place with Mobile Technology

The major markets in our urban towns record large numbers of human traffic daily. It is in these markets that several activities take place, most of which are directly related to health and nutrition of citizens. Incidentally, there is no planned system to supervise and regulate common sanitation needs of sellers who spend an average of sixteen hours in the market. Handling of food (raw and cooked), medicine, chemical products, water, washrooms and personal hygiene are all mixed up in a free and unregulated manner.

Since the use of mobile phones by sellers and buyers is the most common communication device in the market, CENDLOS envisages that a simple programme of knowledge sharing could go on to inform, educate and instruct the market population through text, video and voice messaging.