



# **LESOTHO**

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## **LESOTHO COL MID TERM REPORT (2010/2011)**

### **Key Challenges and Opportunities**

- Lack of teaching/learning materials
- Capacity building on development of teaching materials
- Internet connectivity only in urban areas

### **Status of ODL**

- Draft Policy on ODL – developed, has been presented to Ministry of Education and Training for further consultations, refinement and turn into law.
- Ministry involved with process of consolidation of all sector policies into one policy document on education.
- National chapter of Distance Education Association of Southern Africa – DEASA is very strong. Membership comprises local educational institutions and other relevant training bodies and sector ministries.
- Lesotho citizens have participated in VUSSC workshops in an effort to build a resource base for ODL in different sectors

### **COL Activities**

#### **I. Open Schooling**

The Lesotho Distance Teaching Center has been spear heading the open schooling concept. A team has been working on the development of self instructional material in the areas of English, Maths and Science. The first phase of print modules has been completed and submitted. The team is now embarking on online phase.

#### **II. Mainstreaming Child Friendly Schools in Teacher Education**

After a delay due to teething challenges, programme is well advanced. After sensitization, training and curriculum review on the CFS concept, the team is now

starting with development of modules. There is a lot of enthusiasm among teachers about this concept.

There is need to create a common understanding in the country through more consultations and awareness raising campaigns among stakeholders.

### **III. Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth– VUSSC**

The 9<sup>th</sup> VUSSC workshop was held in Lesotho from 7<sup>th</sup> to 25 March 2011 on “Development of material in business and entrepreneurship”. The workshop, co-hosted by the MOE and the National University of Lesotho was attended by 24 participants from 14 Small States of Commonwealth. Sir John Daniel presented a keynote address which was the highlight and set the tone for the workshop. The Honorable Minister Dr. ‘Mamphono Khaketla welcomed all participants and officially opened the workshop.

### **IV. Commonwealth Association of Polytechnics of Africa CAPA**

The Lerotholi Polytechnic hosted the above conference in December, 2010. At the end of the conference participants were given training on skills development in e learning by Ms Alison Mead Richardson.

### **TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2012 – 2015**

1. Capacity building to develop materials – both print and online for practitioners at all level.
2. Capacity building at technical and vocational level to develop more flexible skills delivering methods.
3. Venture into the area of livelihoods especially the use of cell phone to promote livelihoods in the areas of health, farming and tourism.
4. Promoting human resource development in business and entrepreneurship at tertiary level.
5. Research on teacher education capacity building.