



# **MALAWI**

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## **CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND PRIORITIES FOR MALAWI**

### Challenges

- Rapid growth of open schooling learners
- Untrained practitioners system
- Inadequate learner support systems

### Opportunities

- Government of Malawi supportive of open and distance learning programmes
- Policy on ODL underway
- Many learners demanding education through distance learning

### Status of ODL in Malawi

Demand for education at all levels is growing. Many citizens in Malawi seek education and training in many fields of education through ODL. A good number of government and private institutions now offer education through ODL. The Government is dedicated itself to provision of education through this mode:

- Radio programmes for primary school education offered by MCDE/EDC
- Open secondary schooling supported by MCDE, a department of Ministry of Education Science and Technology
- Open and distance learning programmes offered by institutions other than MCDE:
  - i. Domasi College of Education (DCE): for teacher education for secondary schooling
  - ii. Department of Teacher Education and Development (DTED) through Teacher Training Colleges, for primary education
  - iii. Mzuzu University through Centre for Open and Distance Education, for various courses
  - iv. University of Malawi, through its constituent: (a) The Polytechnic for Continuing Education (b) Chancellor College (e-learning centre)

- v. Private Institutions – Shareworld Open University for various degrees, Theological Education Extension in Malawi, theology courses
- vi. Malawi College of DE for Junior Certificate and Malawi School Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level)
- vii. Provision of support to field staff through orientation courses

Malawi College of Distance Education currently provides two programmes at secondary school level: Junior certificate and Malawi School Certificate of Education through open schooling in over 300 open secondary schools housed in government conventional secondary schools. To support open secondary schools, MCDE also provides orientation course in management and practice of ODE for teacher-supervisors in open secondary schools.

#### Human resource

A number of training programmes for professional development: Over 20 educators have under gone a post graduate diploma in distance education with Indira Gandhi Open University and some are continued to Masters Degree in Distance Education with the same university. Others have their Masters Degree in Distance Education with the same university. A number of educators have also followed the PREST course to a certificate course.

#### Available infrastructures

- (a) **Single mode:** Malawi College of Distance Education
- (b) **Dual mode:** (i) Domasi College of Education (ii) Teacher Training College under DTED (Department of the Ministry of Education) (iii) Mzuzu University (iv) University of Malawi (Department of e- learning), and Department of Continuing Education at the Polytechnic

#### **TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2011 – 2014**

1. Training workshops for (a) teachers/tutors/lecturers in ODE philosophy, management and administration. (b) Course developers (c) Researchers in ODE
2. Establish learner-support unit for open and distance learning
3. Promoting e-learning in open and distance learning institutions
4. Improvement of livelihoods programmes through information dissemination on radio and television