



RWANDA

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GUIDELINES FROM COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING (COL)

1. Key opportunities and challenges (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 2012-2015.

RWANDA

Key Opportunities (not more than 3)

- 1) Existence of a strong ICT institutional framework:
 - A Ministry in the President’s Office specifically charged with developing ICT policies, ensuring sector coordination, providing political oversight, raising awareness in the population, as well as urging the use of ICT in all sectors and services.
 - A department of Information Technology in Rwanda Development Board (RDB-IT) which coordinates and implements national ICT initiatives and programmes in Rwanda including the extension of ICT infrastructure especially in rural areas.
 - Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency (RURA), an independent regulatory agency that regulates public utilities including ICT.
 - ICT Units within Ministries, in Public Service Organisations and in Districts.
- 2) Strengthening education in Science and Technology through integrating ICT in all education subject areas (ICT in Education) is one of the priorities of the ESSP 2010-2015.

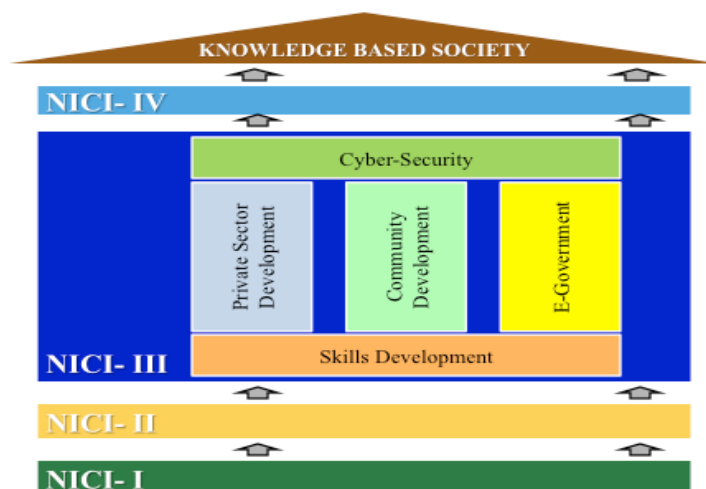
Key Challenges (not more than 3)

- 1) Electricity coverage is still insufficient but heavy investments are now being geared towards the energy sector.
- 2) Relatively weak Private Sector with low skills and capacity to exploit the ICT infrastructure put in place and to innovate.
- 3) Local ODeL experts inadequate to roll out a comprehensive ODeL programme.

Status of ODeL in Rwanda

Policies and Plans

- Existence of National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) Policies and Plans which portray Integrated ICT-led Socio-Economic Development Frameworks for Rwanda every five years since 2001 until the achievement of Vision 2020 (NICI 1: 2001-2005; NICI 2: 2006-2010; NICI 3: in the process of being developed for 2011-2015).



Source: Ministry in the Office of the President in charge of ICT in collaboration with Rwanda Development Board: *Sector Performance Report 2010/11: Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)*, April 2011 [Unpublished Report], page 18.

- No national ODeL Policy, Strategic Plan and Implementation Framework.

Teacher Education

- Existence of a Distance Training Programme (DTP) at Kigali Institute of Education (KIE) although it does not resort to eLearning yet.

Higher Education

- Some HLIs (KIE and NUR) host postgraduate web-based online programmes in collaboration with other HLIs from India in the case of KIE as well as from some African countries and Europe (Belgium) in the case of NUR.

Infrastructure

- A nation-wide communication fibre optic network connected to the submarine backbone cable system of the Indian Ocean at Mombasa, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, is already in place.
- One Laptop Per Child programme is now being rolled out for P4 to P6 pupils country-wide.
- A One Laptop Per Teacher scheme is being put in place through the teachers' Savings and Credit Cooperative 'Umwalimu SACCO'.
- Heavy investments are being made in equipping secondary schools with computers country-wide (computer lab approach).

Content

- The National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) is in the process of digitalising the content of its curricula.
- The Higher Education Council (HEC) is in the process of developing guidelines and benchmarks governing ODeL at higher education level in Rwanda.
- The National University of Rwanda (NUR) runs an online postgraduate programme in ICT Policy and Regulation and in Pharmaceutical Science. They are also preparing ODeL materials for a multidisciplinary degree package in Management, Rural Development and Business Computing as well as for their existing Secretarial Studies diploma to upgrade it to a degree in Office Management.
- An Electronic Learning Management System (ELMS) with course modules and library materials uploaded on the system is now in use at the Institute of Legal Practice and Development (ILPD).

TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2012-2015 (NOT MORE THAN FIVE) IN WHICH WE WOULD WISH COL TO ASSIST IN:

1. Development of a national ODeL Policy, Strategic Plan and Implementation Framework.
2. Building the capacity of teachers and lecturers in the development and production of ODeL materials.
3. Building the Private Sector capacity in order to equip it with higher skills to exploit the ICT infrastructure put in place and to innovate.

4. Building the capacity of teachers and lecturers to equip them with skills to use ICT in the process of teaching and learning.
5. Development of a structured in-service teacher training (INSETT) clearly defining planning, curriculum, certification and methods of instruction including ODeL.