



## **SWAZILAND**

Focal Point: Mr. Peterson Siphon Dlamini

### **GUIDELINES FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING**

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 -2015

### **SWAZILAND**

#### Key Challenges

- Inadequate number of qualified Primary Teachers to meet the demands of Free Primary Education
- No structures or mechanisms put in place to introduce Teacher Education through Open and Distance Learning to address the issue of the shortage of teacher supply in Primary Schools
- Lack of adequately qualified Lecturers on ODL

#### Opportunities

- The smallness of the size of the country and its geographical landscape gives good opportunity for Teacher Education through Open and Distance Learning
- The good road infrastructure and the quality of other forms of communications including inter & transnational connectivity e.g. telephone, internet, radio and T.V. etc
- Unifying factor – people practice one culture and speak one language

## Status of ODL in Swaziland

### *Policies*

- Swaziland with the technical support from SADC is in the process of drafting its National ODL Policy. To move the process forward, a Task Team was formed last year (2010) and was approved by the Ministry of Education in Swaziland.
- In November last year (2010) Swaziland attended and actively participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Pan-Commonwealth Forum which was held in Kochi, India.

### *Teacher Education Initiatives carried out in 2010 with technical support from COL*

- During the 2010 Academic year, the Ministry of Education in Swaziland working in close collaboration with the UNICEF country office and COL was able develop supplementary Training Manuals. It also mounted several ToT workshops to train Teacher Educators, School Managers and Teacher Resource Managers about the pillars of Child Friendly Schools and supplementary Training Manuals for Teachers.
- Sometime in 2010, Mr. Peterson Dlamini, who is member of Africa Region Steering Committee that is developing the VUSSC's Transnational Qualifications Framework, actively participated in several meetings that were meant to successfully conclude the exercise.
- During the 2010 period, the University of Swaziland, through the Institute for Distance Education, mounted a one week training workshop for Teacher Educators which attracted participants from our three Teacher Training Colleges on material development. The training workshop was blessed by the attendance of Mrs. Francis Ferreira COL rep based in Namibia.

### **TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2012 2015 ( *Not more than five* )**

1. Complete the first phase of mainstreaming the Child Friendly School Models to all Primary schools in the country and thereafter start the same process in Secondary and high schools.
2. Finalise the National ODL Policy and implement it by first capacitating the four Teacher Training Institutions to use ODL methodologies to train and upgrade larger numbers of teachers to address the issue of the short supply of teachers.
3. Capacitate the Pre-service Teacher Training Colleges to the level that they can successfully handle both programmes i.e. Teacher Education Full Time and Teacher Education Distance without any hassles. This to be achieved through

capacitating the institution and also capacitating the college lecturers to acquire methods on Distance Teacher Education.

4. Capacity building workshops on material/curriculum development for use on Distance Teacher Education mode. To achieve this, the Ministry shall need various forms of Technical support from COL to successfully carry out this activity.
5. Establish and operationalise a department of Distance Education in each of the following colleges i.e. Ngwane Teacher Training College and Nazarene Teacher Training College so that qualifying individuals who aspire to be teachers and because of space shortage in conventional college are still able to get access to teacher training through the distance training mode.