

UGANDA

COL activities in 2003-2006

BACKGROUND

Uganda's higher education system is one of the oldest in East Africa with Makerere University providing education to the entire region. It also has high adult literacy and high enrolment in primary education. These are solid foundations but more development is needed in secondary and tertiary education especially in the use of open and distance learning and information and communications technology (ODL/ICT). Uganda's economy has great potential with significant natural resources but its education and vocational training systems need to focus better on preparing people to build that economy.

In the area of healthcare, Uganda has been a pioneer in showing how the pandemic HIV/AIDS can be dealt with through appropriate policies of awareness building, education and medical support.

Uganda has been regular contributor to COL's budget and has been an avid supporter of COL activities.

SUMMARY

In 2003-2006 COL's partnership with Uganda has included a number of open schooling initiatives including offering assistance to Kyambogo University (KYU) to set up an open school. Uganda is involved in the NEPAD e-School Initiative and Schoolnet Africa project which helped the country with the implementation of ICT in its schools for teacher training and other purposes. COL has empowered the KYU to deliver the IEC-developed "Introduction to Distance Education" to institutions in other countries. COL has also made it possible for senior people from the education system to attend a variety of training events in other countries where they have been able to share expertise and exchange best practices.

POLICY AND SYSTEMS ENHANCEMENT

Working with local partners

Working in partnership with the Uganda Library and Information Association, COL supported the African Copyright Forum at Makerere University in November 2005. The “African Copyright and Access to Information Alliance” was established at the conference and an Interim Board was elected to start the process of addressing copyright and related issues in Africa, with particular reference to education, libraries and people with disabilities.

Open schooling

Eighteen delegates from Uganda participated in the National Consultative Forum on policy for open and distance learning education in Kenya in September 2004 to raise awareness of and to advocate for the establishment of open schools in the Sub-Saharan region. In addition, COL has assisted in raising awareness of open schooling through supporting the participation of three Ugandans in the two-week programme on establishing open schooling systems offered at the National Institute of Open Schooling in India in August.

Uganda was involved in the NEPAD e-School Initiative which COL is evaluating. The E-School Demonstrator Project selected six schools in Uganda to be e-Schools for the implementation of ICT. The project was free to schools in the demonstration year. Through this project, teachers were trained to teach ICT skills and be able to use ICT to deliver their lessons.

COL and Schoolnet Africa worked together to support the use of ICT in teacher training institutions in Uganda. The first workshop took place in November 2004 in which in-country and donor partners came together to agree on the project concept and plan for working with teacher training institutions. The Schoolnet Toolkits were available for international meetings on schoolnets/e-schools.

COL and the International Extension College (IEC) supported the expansion of an IEC-developed training programme “Introduction to Distance Education: a course for managers and practitioners” for use at the KYU to empower its distance education personnel. KYU now has the materials and expertise to enable institutions in other countries to have access to or offer the programme.

COL offered assistance to KYU to establish an open school.

Preparation and use of Learning Materials

COL supported the participation of one Ugandan from Makerere University at the Workshop to Develop a Package of Best Practices in Quality Assurance for Teacher Education in India in February 2006.

Uganda was one of eight Southern African countries working with COL on STAMP 2000+, a five year programme of learning materials creation aimed at teachers and administrators in Science, Mathematics and Technology as well as General Education. Forty-six modules have been developed and 300 educators were trained in the process of creating the materials.

Supporting development through better public information

Through the Community Radio Project, a solar-powered FM community radio station was set up by COL reaching a target audience of one million Luo speakers in northern Uganda. Staff were trained to produce programmes on health, agriculture and gender issues to reach to the mass audiences.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COL organised Management Development Workshops for Senior African Teacher Educators in India (2) and Singapore in 2003, 2004 and 2005. There were ten participants from Uganda representing: Rukungiri Primary Teachers College, National Teachers College Masindi, Loro Primary Teachers College, Kakoba National Teachers College, National Teachers College Unyama, Nakaseke Primary Teachers College, National Teachers College Nagongera, Busubizi Primary Teachers College, National Teachers College Kabale, and St. Mary's Primary Teachers College.

COL and the ACU organised a professional development series: Managing Change, Leadership and Strategic Change in Higher Education – a Programme for Leaders of Commonwealth Universities in Africa, in Scotland in 2004 and 2005. Uganda's two participants represented the Islamic University of Uganda and Inter-University Council for East Africa.

COL has helped to train two Ugandans in eLearning through attendance at a hands-on workshop on creating online study materials as well as supporting and facilitating learners.

One Ugandan participant attended the African Regional Conference on Teacher Training and the Use of ICT in the Classroom that was held in Kenya in November 2003.

LOOKING FORWARD

Uganda has used its partnership with COL very effectively in 2003-2006. It has used this period to consolidate systems already in place as well as to expand into key areas such as open schooling. It is now well placed to become a regional leader sharing expertise and building more networks with its neighbours. In 2006-2009 COL's work with Uganda will concentrate on formulating an ODL/ICT integrated national education policy with the focus on higher education and continuing efforts to expand open schooling and strengthen teacher training. In this period there is also scope to initiate work in the area of using media to promote better health education.