Guidelines from the 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/eLearning 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 2015-2018.

Status of ODeL in Rwanda

Policies and Plans


The education sector, through NICI 3, strategized skills development within six main projects:

1. **ICT Professional Certification Programmes**: developing a competent and relevant ICT professional base.
2. **SchoolNet**: increasing the penetration and usage of ICT in 9 and 12-year basic education.
3. **ICT training for teachers**: developing teacher capabilities in and through ICT.
4. **Rwanda Education and Research Network (RwEdNet)**: enhancing teaching, learning and research through ICT in Higher Education.
5. **Open, Distance and e-Learning (ODeL)**: increasing access to education.
6. **Digital Library**: increasing access to scientific publications for educational institutions and the general public.

The Task Force on Open University of Rwanda produced two reports:

The Ministry of Education submitted these reports to the University of Rwanda (UR) for implementation. Thus, the UR/College of Education created the School of Open Distance Learning. The posts of Dean and Deputy Dean for this School have been advertised.

Existing ODL programmes
- A Distance Training Programme (DTP) at the UR/College of Education (former Kigali Institute of Education, KIE) although it does not resort to eLearning yet.
- UR hosts postgraduate web-based online programmes in collaboration with other Higher Learning Institutes from abroad (former National University of Rwanda, Kigali Institute of Education and Kigali Institute of Science and Technology).
- The UR/College of Medicine and Health Sciences host an eLearning programme for nurses aiming at upgrading associate nurses to registered nurses.

Infrastructure
- A National fibre optic network connecting all Districts to the submarine backbone cable system from the Indian Ocean at Mombasa, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, is already in place (2600 Km).
- One Laptop per Child programme is now being rolled out for P4 to P6 pupils country-wide.
- 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).
- An ICT in Education Institutional Framework is under revision and consolidation.

TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2018 IN WHICH WE WISH COL TO ASSIST:

1. Development of a national ODeL Policy, Strategic Plan and Implementation Framework.
2. Building the capacity for teachers and lecturers in the development and production of ODeL materials.
3. Building teachers’ and lecturers’ capacity including the private sector in the use of eLearning, Mobile Learning, MOOCs and OERs in the process of teaching and learning.
4. Developing a national and organisational strategy for eLearning, mobile Learning, MOOCs and OERs in Rwanda (strategy, policy and organisational & technical structure).
5. Developing the national digital library institutional framework.

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