



## **COUNTRY PRESENTATION - CAMEROON**

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### **The use of ODL in Cameroon**

ODL use in Cameroon is steadily on the rise, notably in tertiary education. With the drive to achieve universal primary education, open schooling could eventually help check surging enrolment at the primary and secondary levels as well. ODL use in other social sectors like health and agriculture is still timid. This document will mostly dwell on ODL in higher education.

A national committee was constituted in 2007 to oversee the drawing up of a national ODL policy framework for Cameroon. Later on however, COL decided to assign the task of crafting this policy framework to Professor Ajaga Nji, a Cameroonian Scholar and COL Regional Consultant for West Africa. Work on the document is still underway.

The most efficient distance education programme in Cameroon is that of University of Dschang, in its Faculty of Agronomy. For several years now, this institution has been running a Diploma programme in Agriculture by distance.

University of Dschang also has a Media Unit and a Campus FM radio station which addresses the training of farmers and extension officers, as well as information dissemination concerning HIV/AIDS prevention in rural communities.

The Fotso Victor University Institute of Technology (IUT-FV) in Bandjoun is a polytechnic attached to the University of Dschang. IUT-FV combines ODL and ICT through a series of online degree and Higher National Diploma (HND) programmes supported by the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) under the accreditation and quality assurance of a university in Quebec.

The University Institute of Technology (IUT) of the University of Douala has a programme very similar to that operated by IUT-FV.

The National Advanced School of Agro and Industrial Sciences of the University of Ngaoundere runs a distance education programme in Quality Control and Management, with off-campus resource centres at about four locations for access to remote students.

The other reference of ODL use in Cameroon after the University of Dschang is the University of Buea which recently started a pilot distance education programme in Education. The programme recruits students into a Bachelor in Education (BEd.) programme. This programme is meant to train primary school teachers. Course writing is facilitated through cooperation with the National Open University of Nigeria under the RETRIDAL initiative.

### **Top priorities**

1. Follow-up on dual-mode provision at the universities where this already exists and expansion to dual-mode provision elsewhere.
2. Development of a national policy framework for ODL in Cameroon.
3. Setting up of a national technical committee to draw up an Action Plan that should decide on the subjects to be covered, cost of the programmes and budget for it, decide on equipment requirements and acquisition and draw-up implementation programme.
4. Establishment of a national body to manage the distance education programme in Cameroon.

### **What can COL do to further our agenda?**

1. Continue supporting the development of our national ODL policy.
2. Continue supporting dual-mode provision.
3. Support open/alternative schooling.
4. Support teacher development.
5. Support higher education.
6. Support rural and peri-urban community development.