**ICT IN EDUCATION POLICY**

There is quiet number of national policies that support and govern the use of ICT in teaching and learning toward education quality. Some of them will be briefly discussed below. There are also policies that might not guide the integration of ICT in education but are important to discuss such the e-waste management policy.

**Vision 2020**

Vision 2020 is Rwanda’s long-term development plan that seeks to fundamentally transform Rwanda into a middle-income country by 2020. It sets out ambitious plans to create an internationally competitive, dynamic economy, supported by a productive, skilled workforce. One of the six pillars of Vision 2020 relates to the development of human resources and the creation of a knowledge-based economy. The Government of Rwanda aims to transform Rwanda into a middle income country by 2020.

**EDPRS2**

The Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) outlines how the education sector will strive to achieve this mission over the next 5 years. It stipulates that “ICT solutions will be used to improve service delivery” and also that “ICT is considered as an important aspect in developing the knowledge based economy”. If ICT is used in all kind of jobs, there is no way that teaching will not be using ICT and as learners use ICT in their learning life, it will be easy for them to use ICT in their daily life. The EDPRS2 straights that the quality of education received and the skills acquired contribute to the economic growth of the country. The resources allocated to improving quality of education are of vital importance.

**SMART Rwanda Master Plan**

The smart Rwanda master plan derives from the SMART Africa commitment in 2013 and it is a five years plan which describes the priorities of applying ICTs in different sectors. SMART Rwanda stands for Service-oriented Modem Accountable and Real Time Rwanda to accelerate the socio-economic growth. Providing and expanding access to variety of educational programs and diverse educational access through mobile and other channels is one of the priorities of the master plan at national level.

**ESSP**

The Education Sector Strategic plan is a plan that outlines how the education sector will strive to achieve its mission over a period of five years. It has been developed in line with the EDPRS2 to achieve the national aspirations for economic transformation, rural development, accountable governance, improved productivity and youth employment. The ESSP has 10 outcomes developed based on the three goals and priorities in education sector. The three goals are:

* Expanding access to education at all level
* Improving quality education and training
* Strengthening the relevance of education and training to meet labor market demand

**Smart ICT in Education Master Plan/ ICT in Education Policy**

The Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) will focus on providing each school at primary and secondary level with a number of **Smart Classrooms** that enable shared 1:1 learning environments. This approach is more feasible, less costly and ensures equity of access in the shortest time possible. Smart Classrooms are technology enhanced classrooms that foster opportunities for teaching and learning by integrating learning technology, such as computers, digital content and specialized educational software, assistive technologies, audio-visual equipment and networking equipment.

**E-Waste Management Policy**

The modern society increasingly relies on electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and it is very important to reduce the impact on the environment as much as possible from the entire life-cycle of EEE. These products are highly complex and contain many hazardous components and scarce raw materials. The life-span of many such products is quite short and hence E-waste is a growing concern all over the world, Rwanda being no exception. In Rwanda, there are growing numbers of personal computers in institutions, households, business facilities etc. Besides, with the growth of the telecommunication sector, the number of citizens subscribing to the mobile network is steadily increasing. Moreover, electrical household appliances and equipment is an increasing product group imported to the country.

## ICT in Education in Rwanda

ICT is a central component of the science and technology education program. It is stipulated in the EDPRS2 that ICT is a critical area for cross-cutting work in partnership between MINEDUC and MININFRA to extend access to electricity to schools to support learning and the use of ICT in education.

In addition the use of ICT in education will be promoted during the course of the ESSP by developing capacity of teaching staff to integrate the use of ICT into education practices via training on the use of ICT in teaching practice, development of ICT standards and competencies and provision of technical and pedagogical support in schools, developing and distributing quality digital content and ensuring that this content is adapted to the Rwandan context and aligned with the national curriculum and expanding Open, Distance and e‐Learning (ODeL), principally through the University of Rwanda.