**ICT IN EDUCATION POLICY**

Rwanda Vision 2020 aims at moving Rwanda from “an agriculture based economy to a knowledge-based society “and middle-income country 2020.

The Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) calls for 3 strategic goals to be addressed for education to fulfill its potential in the development of Rwanda.

* To expand access to education at all levels:
* To improve the quality of education and training:
* To strengthen the relevance of education and training to the labor market including the insertion of 21st century skills

At the same time, the Vision 2020 places ICTs at the heart of the transformation across all sectors among others Education sector.

The Vision for ICT in Education is:

“To harness the innovative and cost-effective potential of world-class educational

Technology tools and resources, for knowledge creation and deepening, to push out the

Boundaries of education: improve quality, increase access, and enhance diversity of learning

Methods and materials include new categories of learners, foster both communications

and collaboration skills, and build capacity of all those involved in providing education.”

The foundation of this Policy and Strategic Plan at the core of ESSP and ICT in Education

Policy is promoting ICT to provide access to education for all and quality education that is

relevant with regard to the labour market.

To achieve successful education transformation, the ICT in education policy calls for the

implementation of four strategic objectives.

1. Develop a competent & relevant ICT professional base to meet industry needs
2. Increase ICT penetration and usage at all educational levels
3. Develop Education leadership and teachers’ capacity and capability in and through ICT
4. Enhance teaching, learning & research through ICT integration in HLIs

The major challenges identified to achieve this policy included: inadequate infrastructure; high power costs; equipment; and connectivity costs. The absence of a culture around the use of ICT also prevented the widespread adoption of such tools in education, as did the limited availability of digital content, expertise and project coordination.

limited availability of digital learning material, lack of expertise in project management skills and poor coordination of initiatives, systematic road map for ICT Teachers Professional Development, e-readiness survey, analysis and ICT infrastructure plan and technical support.

However, one of the major strengths of ICT in Education is that it is already strongly

supported by the Government and well taken into account in national policy documents,

and various projects are already implemented or underway. New opportunities must

now be seized in order to further the dissemination of ICT in the education sector,

through the development of infrastructure, partnership building with private and public

Institutions and the creation of new links with regional and international initiatives.

This policy supports open access education resources to mitigate against identified lack

of digital learning content

**The policy has eleven main policy statements as follows.**

**ICT in Formal Education** Improve preparation of the current generation of students for a workplace where ICT tools such as computers, Internet and other related technologies, are becoming ever more present.

**ICT in Non-Formal Education** ICT provides opportunities for self-learning and distance-learning independently of time or place.

**Access and Equity** This policy recognizes ICTs to be a cross-cutting area aimed at equality and equity to all Rwandan citizens.

**Infrastructure**

Efforts will be made, to provide the needed infrastructure to the remote and underserved areas using technological solutions that are suited to local needs and conditions.

**Training and Capacity Building**

ICT-enabled training methods will be fully explored, including distance education, e-learning, and blended learning. Pre-service and in-service training will be offered on a continuous basis to enable staff and other stakeholders to keep up to date with technological and pedagogical developments.

**Management, Support, and Sustainability**

Necessary actions will be taken to plan and budget for ICT in Education projects, including innovative means to secure and optimizing requirements through public private partnerships. Additionally, income generating activities will be explored and conducted in order to minimize the Government expenditure on ICT in education initiatives.

**Open Distance and e-Learning**

The main purpose of ODeL is to increase the provision of educational opportunities, at all levels of education and training to improve access to, quality and effectiveness of the education system, and improve the efficiency of the educational sub-sector.

**Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships**

Recognizing the value of multi-stakeholder partnerships, and valuing the opportunity that lies from the possible support from global corporations and development partners, the Government of Rwanda will engage in various modes of collaboration and partnerships.

**Research and Development**

Recognizing experiences and lessons learned from educators and learners, the Government of Rwanda will facilitate participatory involvement of stakeholders at all levels and develop means of disseminating and analysing the feedback to improve learning outcomes.