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Reviewing National Strategies towards Open and Distance Learning

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ISSUES	QUESTIONS TO ASK
Preparing national strategies	<p>How are ODL and ICT part of the country-led reform process? (Is one in place or planned?)</p> <p>How is this strategy set within a framework to develop education as a whole?</p> <p>Is the strategy linked directly to significant educational goals? Other developments in telecommunications?</p> <p>How does the strategy allow for content development and testing?</p> <p>How will these issues be assessed realistically?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Available infrastructure? ■ Institutional capacity? ■ Costs? ■ Means of finance?
Building on what has worked	<p>Does the national framework on education call for more, better teachers? If so, has the country provided teacher development at a distance? Does the national framework call for improving the quality of primary education? Does radio reach all schools? Does the national framework call for expansion of tertiary education? Has open and distance learning been used in the past?</p>
Investing in innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ How will the initiative build on local infrastructure and experience? ■ Has the initiative been tested in a pilot project before expanding? ■ Has an evaluation been conducted? Is one planned?
Containing costs and supporting long-term financing	<p>How will high-level, fixed costs be managed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Loans or grants ■ National budget ■ Student fees
Managing recurrent costs	<p>Will external financing be used?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For going to scale ■ For containing costs of technologies (favorable purchase policies, telecommunications connections, access to broadcasting) ■ For student fees
Supporting national capacity for program design and management	<p>What policies and incentives will attract high-quality personnel? What resources, public and private, need to be mobilized to attract expertise in design and management?</p>
Creating partnerships inside and outside the country	<p>Have the economies of regional cooperation been considered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maximize technical expertise? ■ Reduce the burden of high fixed costs? ■ Increase the number of learners? ■ Share experience? <p>Have in-country partnerships been sought with other stakeholders such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Telecommunications industries? ■ Other private-sector partners?
	<p><i>Source: Murphy, Paud, S. Anzalone, A. Bosch, and J. Moulton. 2002. Enhancing Learning Opportunities in Africa: Distance Education and Information and Communication Technologies for Learning. Washington, D.C.: the World Bank.</i></p>