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Defining the Next Steps for Online Regulation Framework for Higher Education in South Sudan

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Workshop on Drafting a Regulatory Framework for Online Higher Education Programs

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Presentation Outlines

- ✓ Institutional Preparation
- ✓ Strengthen Digital Infrastructure
- ✓ Build Institutional Capacity
- ✓ Launch Pilot Programs
- ✓ Promote Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing



Introduction

- ✓ Following the adoption of the Online Higher Education Regulation, the next phase should focus on analyzing the current landscape on implementation, infrastructure, capacity building, and partnerships to ensure sustainable and inclusive digital learning across higher learning institutions in South Sudan.
- ✓ The adoption of the Online Higher Education Regulation marks the beginning not the end of the digital transformation journey.
- ✓ **The following strategic actions are recommended to ensure successful implementation:**

1. Institutional Preparation (6 Months)

- ✓ Develop implementation guidelines and institutional compliance standards.
- ✓ Conduct assessment of ICT infrastructure in higher learning institutions.
- ✓ Create a National Steering Committee comprising MoHEST, Universities, Regulators, MICT&PS, NCA , and Development Partners.

2. Strengthen Digital Infrastructure (6–18 Months)

- ✓ Expand reliable and affordable internet connectivity across higher learning institutions.
- ✓ Promote partnerships with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to provide subsidized educational data packages for students and lecturers.
- ✓ Invest in campus Wi-Fi, computer laboratories, servers, learning management systems (LMS), and backup power solutions.

4. Build Institutional Capacity (6–12 Months)

- ✓ Train university leaders, lecturers, and quality assurance officers.
- ✓ Deploy or strengthen Learning Management Systems (LMS) across universities.
- ✓ Support ICT departments with training to manage e-learning platforms, cybersecurity, and technical support.
- ✓ Improve students' digital literacy through orientation and continuous support programs.

4. Launch Pilot Programs (18–30 Months)

- ✓ Launch pilot online and blended learning programmes in selected universities. Establish student support services, digital libraries, and online assessment systems.
- ✓ Monitor compliance with quality assurance standards and collect feedback from students and institutions.
- ✓ Evaluate challenges and refine implementation strategies.
- ✓ Encourage institutions to jointly develop online courses and learning materials.

5. Promote Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing (22–48 Months)

- ✓ Expand online learning programmes to all accredited higher education institutions.
- ✓ Strengthen accreditation, monitoring, and periodic quality reviews.
- ✓ Promote research and innovation in digital education. Continue professional development for academic and technical staff.
- ✓ Review and update the regulatory framework every five years to reflect technological advancements and emerging educational needs.

Expected Outcomes:

- ✓ Improved access to quality higher education across South Sudan.
- ✓ Enhanced digital skills among lecturers and students.
- ✓ Reduced geographical barriers to learning.
- ✓ Stronger institutional resilience during emergencies.
- ✓ A sustainable, inclusive, and internationally competitive higher education system.



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