The Caribbean region is made up of 12 small states: 10 are island nations, one is located in Central America (Belize) and one is in South America (Guyana). These nations are unique in many ways, yet they also share common development challenges. COL works closely with the nations through initiatives to expand access to quality education and training using open and distance learning (ODL) and information and communication technology (ICT). The 12 member countries in the region are Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & The Grenadines and Trinidad & Tobago.

**CONTEXT**

**REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

- Promote education and skills development in agriculture and health
- Integrate ICT into teacher training
- Develop leadership skills
- Develop a Caribbean Qualifications Framework

**REGIONAL FOCAL POINTS MEETING**

The COL Regional Focal Points Meeting (Caribbean) was held in Trinidad & Tobago from 26 to 28 March 2014. The meeting is held once every three years and provides an opportunity for the Focal Points to: 1) share information about the status of ODL in their countries; 2) receive the mid-term report of what COL has done in each country; and 3) identify education and training priorities that COL can support in the next Strategic Plan.

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL**

- Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Qualifications Framework developed
- CARICOM Teachers and Teacher Education Standards developed
- 11 new VUSSC courses, including the VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education, VUSSC Sustainable Tourism Diploma and VUSSC Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism, made available
- Regional ODL Policy drafted
- Open schooling supported through twinning

**QUICK NOTES**

**CONTEXT**

- Promote education and skills development in agriculture and health
- Integrate ICT into teacher training
- Develop leadership skills
- Develop a Caribbean Qualifications Framework

**REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL**

- Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Qualifications Framework developed
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- 11 new VUSSC courses, including the VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education, VUSSC Sustainable Tourism Diploma and VUSSC Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism, made available
- Regional ODL Policy drafted
- Open schooling supported through twinning

**QUICK NOTES**

**COL Board:**

- His Excellency Hubert John Charles, Ambassador to the USA and Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS), (Dominica)

**Honorary Advisor:**

- Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald (Barbados)

**COL-UNESCO Chair:**

- University of the West Indies (UWI)- Open Campus: Dr Joel Warrican

**Areas of COL's Work in the Region:**

- Open Schooling
- Higher Education
- Teacher Education
- Virtual University for the Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
- Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
HIGHLIGHTS

COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five; however, for ease of reference activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

PARTNERSHIPS
COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

► Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC)
► Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
► Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC)
► Caribbean Broadcasting Association
► Transformative Communication Partners Caribbean

CAPACITY
Capacities development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

► Regional Focal Points Meeting
► Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
► Emergency and Disaster Management for Broadcasters
► Regional OER workshop
► Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended Model of Skills Training
► Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit Workshop

MATERIALS
Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

► Research Report on Community Learning in the Caribbean

► 11 new VUSSC courses available
► VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education
► Revised VUSSC Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism
► VUSSC Sustainable Tourism Diploma
► Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate

MODELS
A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

► Lifelong Learning for Farmers model
► Healthy Communities model
► Open Schooling model
► Flexible and Blended TVET

POLICIES
A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

► Regional ODL Policy
► CARICOM Qualifications Framework
► CARICOM Standards for Teachers and Teacher Education
At the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, the following priorities were identified:

► Provision of open schooling for marginalised youth
► Supporting greater focus on special education
► Supporting greater focus on early childhood education
► Establishing repositories of resources (knowledge bases)
► Building networks and communities to share good practices
► Expanding the Open Textbooks initiative
► Improvement of coordination and collaboration between organisations
► Development of policy in ODL and OER
Antigua & Barbuda is a small state of the Commonwealth with a population of around 90,000. Literacy rates and enrolment in primary and secondary education are high. Antigua & Barbuda is an active participant in COL’s regional activities and meetings in the Caribbean, and is a member of the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC). Antigua & Barbuda contributes regularly to COL’s budget.

Col Focal Point:
► Mrs Patricia Benn, Antigua State College (ASC)

Areas of COL’s Work in Antigua & Barbuda:
► Open Schooling
► Teacher Education
► Higher Education
► Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
► Healthy Communities
► eLearning

National MDG Targets Addressed by COL
▲ Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications

COL’s Work on Antigua & Barbuda’s MDG Targets
▲ VUSSC is committed to the collaborative development of open content resources for education, training and capacity-building, and the use of ICTs to broaden access to education
▲ Capacity-building, materials development and policy support for sharing open educational resources (OER) and promoting open and distance learning (ODL) are underway

Quick Notes

Outcomes Achieved by COL
► Open Textbooks prototype completed
► Secondary Mathematics curriculum piloted
► First cohort of learners graduated from the Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration (CCTI) programme
► National ICT in Education policy, with embedded OER policy, completed

Agreed Priorities
► Create a Digital Development Strategy
► Provide Moodle training at Antigua State College
► Support open schooling
► Support the Educational Broadcasting Unit to produce indigenous materials to enhance the use of technology in education
► Train health media workers to provide appropriate, relevant educational materials
► Set up an e-bulletin zone for farmers and agricultural practitioners
COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

**PARTNERSHIPS**
COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

► Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Gender Affairs
► Minister of Telecommunications, Science and Technology
► Antigua & Barbuda Broadcasting Service (ABS)
► Antigua & Barbuda University
► Antigua State College
► The Hospitality Training Institute

**CAPACITY**
Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

► Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns
► Regional OER workshop
► Cost and Financing for Open Schools
► Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended Model of Skills Training
► Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC

**MATERIALS**
Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

► Research Report on Community Learning in the Caribbean
► Open textbooks
► 11 new VUSSC courses made available
► Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration (CCTI)
► Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism

**MODELS**
A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

► Transnational Qualifications Framework

**POLICIES**
A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

► CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education
► ICT Policy Development
► Regional ODL Policy Framework
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL's Focal Point for Antigua & Barbuda was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Antigua & Barbuda. The following areas were identified:

- Development of curriculum for TVET teachers (including visual and performing arts)
- Training for Physical Education (PE) teachers
- Development of tourism education and awareness programmes for secondary school children and hoteliers
- Promotion of nutrition and health awareness in the population through training and education
- Development of programmes that support enhanced food security
PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

Antigua & Barbuda is a member of VUSSC.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)

COL sponsored the following people to the forum: Mrs Patricia Benn from Antigua State College and Ms Doristeen Etinoff from the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Gender Affairs.

Regional Focal Points Meeting

Mrs Patricia Benn, Deputy Principal of Antigua State College, represented Antigua & Barbuda at the meeting.

VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting

The VUSSC Interlocutors meet every three years to review developments, achievements and lessons learned. The VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting coincides with the Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF). PCF7 was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 6 December 2013. At this meeting, Interlocutors participated in a half-day impact evaluation workshop with COL’s impact evaluators, Dr Stephen Murgatroyd and Ms Janet Tully.

Highlights of the Interlocutors Meeting included a discussion of the post-MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), current VUSSC resources, and the importance of gender in the VUSSC initiative. At the close of the meeting, the following countries expressed interest in offering VUSSC courses: Barbados, Vanuatu, Namibia, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, Maldives, Grenada and Dominica. Mrs Patricia Benn of Antigua State College represented Antigua & Barbuda at this meeting.

CAPACITY

Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns

COL co-facilitated with Ms Barbara Jacobs Small of Transformative Communication Partners (TCP) St. Lucia a session on participatory approaches to disaster awareness campaigns as part of a Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) workshop for senior broadcast managers in the region. The CBA workshop on Emergency and Disaster Management for Broadcasters was held on 29 to 30 October 2012 in Trinidad & Tobago. The session introduced COL-TCP-Caribbean and COL’s work with participatory learning communication to the participants; analysed the current situation, communication programmes and disaster awareness; shared a practical tool that illustrated COL’s approach; and identified opportunities for follow-up. Thirty-seven people participated in the COL session, including attendees from across the Commonwealth Caribbean, as well as representatives of the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Suriname, United Kingdom and United States. Mr Trevor Parker of Antigua & Barbuda Broadcasting Service (ABS) attended the workshop.

Regional OER Workshop

The Regional OER workshop was held in Jamaica from 5 to 7 November 2012. This workshop followed through on the outcomes of the Paris Declaration, which was finalised at the OER World Congress in Paris in June 2012. The purpose of the workshop was to:

► develop a common understanding of the concept of OER and its potential to contribute to improving education in the Caribbean countries;
► define concrete contributions that OER can make in achieving key regional and national educational policy objectives;
► explore the policy requirements to create an enabling environment for effective use of OER and sharing of publicly financed educational resources under open licences; and
► define a roadmap for the development of effective, practical OER country policies and plans in the Caribbean.

Ms Doristeen Etinoff and Ms Stacey Payne-Mascall of the Ministry of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs and Ms Peecheeta Spencer of the Antigua & Barbuda University and COL Focal Point at the time attended the workshop.

Cost and Financing for Open Schools

To ensure sustainable open schools that will increase access to learning opportunities, it is important that open schools adopt the correct systems and policies. Key among these is a cost and financing system. Dr Hyram Forde attended a cost and financing workshop in Barbados from 12 to 17 August 2013.

Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended Model of Skills Training

From 17 to 20 February 2014, COL co-facilitated a workshop in Barbados on the Flexible and Blended model of skills training with 21 participants from 10 Caribbean countries. Equity in access to skills training was a key discussion point. Mrs Patricia Benn of Antigua State College (ASC) and Mr Ronald Greenaway of National Training Authority attended the workshop.

VUSSC Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop

On 24 to 25 March 2014, VUSSC Interlocutors of the Caribbean region participated in a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)
workshop held in Trinidad & Tobago, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Development, to evaluate the VUSSC M&E plan, update the VUSSC logic model and explore tools used for the collection and analysis of data. Ms Patricia Benn of Antigua State College represented Antigua and Barbuda at this meeting.

MATERIALS

Research Report on Community Learning in the Eastern Caribbean
A study into the availability, quality and usage of non-formal health/development educational opportunities, specifically ODL and communication for development programmes in Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean, was conducted by Transformative Communication Partners Caribbean between September and December 2012, with the results presented in 2013.

Concept Paper for Open Textbooks
A regional Open Textbooks Forum was held in Antigua & Barbuda, from 19 to 20 June 2013, which resulted in an agreement to develop a concept paper on the development of open textbooks for the Eastern Caribbean school curriculum. The concept paper was presented to the OECS Education Ministers’ meeting in Antigua & Barbuda in September 2013. A total of 12 participants from the six Commonwealth members of the OECS, plus a representative of the OECS and a representative from Guyana, participated. Ms Priscilla Simon, Dr Cynthia Crump-Russell, Ms Jacintha Pringle and Ms Stacey Payne-Mascall of the Ministry of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs attended the forum. The Open Textbooks prototype, using the CXC Secondary Mathematics curriculum, was completed in February and workshops were held in March to train teachers, administrators and technical staff in how to use the prototype. It was piloted in Antigua & Barbuda secondary schools starting in April 2014.

New VUSSC Courses
During 2013–2014, 11 VUSSC courses were completed including: Master’s in Educational Leadership, Bachelor’s in Business and Entrepreneurship, Diploma in Agriculture, Linux for IT Managers, Facilitating Online Instruction, and Sustainable Tourism. Courses are available to all VUSSC member states on the VUSSC website. Approximately 49,000 people have been reached or trained, including senior officials, educators and over 1,300 learners enrolled in VUSSC-developed courses and programmes.

VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education
Senior officials of the small states identified a need to develop a teacher education programme, especially at the postgraduate level, to help address the acute shortage of teachers in most of the small states and the lack of training programmes in most teacher training institutions. COL therefore facilitated a workshop, in collaboration with the National University of Samoa, to develop a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). It ran from 17 June to 3 July 2013 in Samoa, with 28 participants from 14 countries. Much of the course was developed using OER. Mr Ronald Greenaway, Building Technology, Social Studies, attended the workshop.

Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism
In collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), a workshop to review the Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism was held in Barbados from 17 to 20 March 2014. The VUSSC Education Specialist participated and co-facilitated the workshop to review and update the two courses. Sixteen institutions will be implementing the revised curriculum. Mr Calvin Ambrose and Mr Ercil Charles Jr. of the Hospitality Training Institute participated in the workshop.

The workshop was opened by the Acting Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs, the Hon. Mr Winston Williams.

Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration (CCTI)
Three more modules in the CCTI programmer were completed by 25 teachers:

► Module 4: Assessing ICT Integration
► Module 7: eLearning in the Connected Classroom
► Module 9: ICT Planning for Schools

The final two modules were delivered in January 2014, making this group the first to complete the CCTI in 2014. A formal graduation ceremony was held in March 2014. COL was represented the Education Specialist for eLearning.

MODELS

Transnational Qualifications Framework
The Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF) was used as a reference point to finalise the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Qualifications Framework, which was completed and referenced against the TQF. This means that all VUSSC courses offered by institutions in the Caribbean will be registered on the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised at both the regional and international levels.
Flexible and Blended Model of TVET

The FaB model of flexible skills development supports the integration of technology to help TVET systems become more relevant and responsive. COL strengthens the capacity of TVET educators, managers and policy advisers, across four dimensions: strategic planning, organisational development, ICT infrastructure management and teaching and learning. Adoption of this model can lead to quality improvement in programme delivery and can lead to increased access to TVET.

The FaB model seeks to increase access to TVET through efficiency gains but also by targeting learners who are currently locked out of the TVET system. These target groups include people working in the informal sector, remote and rural dwellers and people with disabilities. Resolving inequity is a central philosophy.

POLICIES

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education

The Second Consultation Meeting for the finalisation and adoption of the draft CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education was held in Trinidad & Tobago on 27 to 28 September 2012. Twenty-five participants from member states of CARICOM were represented at the meeting. The next stage is adapting the standards to suit the policies and realities of each country.

ICT Policy Development

Two successful workshops were held in Antigua to develop an ICT in Education policy that included an OER policy statement and a focus on teacher professional development for ICT integration. The workshops were officially opened by the acting Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs, the Hon. Winston Williams, and the acting Minister of Telecommunications, Science and Technology, the Hon. Dr Edmond Mansoor. The first workshop was held 18 to 19 March 2013 and focused on developing an ICT in Education policy with an embedded OER policy. Twenty-five senior-level participants from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Telecommunications attended, as did several school principals and teachers educators from Antigua State College. The second workshop was held on 20 to 21 March and focused on the implementation of the UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for Teachers (CFT) to guide teacher professional development and the integration of ICTs in education. Twenty-nine participants attended. The policy was submitted to Cabinet and approved in June 2013.

Regional ODL Policy Framework

In collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), COL facilitated a roundtable from 19 to 22 June 2012 at the UWI campus in Barbados. Twelve participants from Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & The Grenadines attended the roundtable.

The draft Regional ODL Policy Framework for the Caribbean, which resulted from the workshop, was circulated to the non-represented stakeholders in the Caribbean, including CARICOM, for their comments.

To move forward on the adoption of the regional framework by member countries, COL met with Dr Morella Joseph, Programme Manager for Human Resource Development, CARICOM, on 8 May 2013 in Trinidad & Tobago. As per the action plan, the draft Regional ODL Policy Framework was presented in the ministerial meeting organised by CARICOM from 20 to 22 May 2013, in Jamaica. The framework was endorsed by the Ministers. A workshop held from 24 to 25 March 2014 in Trinidad & Tobago reviewed the final draft before it was proposed to the meeting of Caribbean Education Ministers. Ms Stacey Payne-Mascall from the Ministry of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs attended the workshop.

The regional ODL policy has been finalised with CARICOM, and approved by the Ministers of Education. It is awaiting formal ratification.
**THE BAHAMAS**

**CONTEXT**

The Bahamas is a small state of the Commonwealth, with a population of just under 380,000. Gross enrolment ratios are high for both primary and secondary education. The Bahamas contributes regularly to COL’s budget and participates in numerous COL activities.

**AGREED PRIORITIES**

- Develop capacity within the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to use distance learning for farmer training, for ongoing professional development for technical staff resident in rural areas, and to link rural farming communities with agricultural credit programmes in the capital
- Provide training for teachers in creating professional development resources
- Provide support for the College of The Bahamas Distance Education Plan

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL**

- 11 new VUSSC courses made available

**COL’S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS**

**National MDG Targets Addressed by COL**

- Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications

**COL’s Work on The Bahamas’s MDG Targets**

- VUSSC is committed to the collaborative development of open content resources for education, training and capacity-building, and the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) to broaden access to education
- Capacity-building, materials development and policy support for sharing open educational resources (OER) and promoting open and distance learning (ODL) are underway

**QUICK NOTES**

**COL Focal Point:**

- Ms Michelle Sears, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

**Areas of COL’s Work in The Bahamas:**

- Open Schooling
- Teacher Education
- Higher Education
- Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
- Healthy Communities
- eLearning
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for The Bahamas was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of The Bahamas. The following areas were identified:

- Piloting of “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) using the Aptus technology
- Provision of technical assistance with the preparation of policy documents

COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

**PARTNERSHIPS**
COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

- Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
- College of The Bahamas (CoB)
- Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas

**CAPACITY**
Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

- Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns
- Regional OER workshop
- Cost and Financing for Open Schools
- Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC

**MATERIALS**
Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

- Research Report on Community Learning in the Caribbean
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available

**MODELS**
A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

- Transnational Qualifications Framework

**POLICIES**
A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

- CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education
- ICT Policy Development
- Regional ODL Policy Framework

In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for The Bahamas was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of The Bahamas. The following areas were identified:

- Piloting of “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) using the Aptus technology
- Provision of technical assistance with the preparation of policy documents
- Provision of training in instructional design and online instruction to personnel of the College of The Bahamas and the Department of Education
- Provision of support in evaluating the impact of distance learning initiatives such as those of the Broadband Learning Corporation (BLC)
Appendix: COL Activities in The Bahamas

PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

The Bahamas is a member of VUSSC.

College of The Bahamas: Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)

At the invitation of Mr Edward Bethel, Director of the Distance Education Unit, COL visited the College of The Bahamas (CoB) in February 2014. The purpose of the visit was to meet with staff and administrators to discuss the expansion of distance and flexible learning to increase access to college programmes. The draft Distance Education Unit Strategic Plan was reviewed and revised. Possibilities for a partnership between COL and CoB are being discussed with a view to improving faculty skills in eLearning and extending college preparatory programmes to the family islands.

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology: Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)

COL met with the COL Focal Point Ms Michelle Sears, Mr Marcellus Taylor, Deputy Director of Transformational Development and Planning, and other colleagues at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to discuss the COL programme and possible areas of partnership. The new Education Professional Development Institute and Agricultural Institute were discussed as potentially benefiting from distance and flexible learning approaches.

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology: Open Schooling

COL had a meeting with officials from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to discuss the establishment of open schooling in The Bahamas and an open schooling proposal that had been previously drafted.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Regional Focal Points Meeting

Ms Michelle Sears, Education Officer of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, attended the meeting.

VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting

The VUSSC Interlocutors meet every three years to review developments, achievements and lessons learned. The VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting coincides with the Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF). PCF7 was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 6 December 2013. At this meeting, Interlocutors participated in a half-day impact evaluation workshop with COL’s impact evaluators, Dr Stephen Murgatroyd and Ms Janet Tully. Highlights of the Interlocutors Meeting included a discussion of the post-MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), current VUSSC resources, and the importance of gender in the VUSSC initiative. At the close of the meeting, the following countries expressed interest in offering VUSSC courses: Barbados, Vanuatu, Namibia, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, Maldives, Grenada and Dominica. The Bahamas was not represented at this meeting.

CAPACITY

Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns

COL co-facilitated with Ms Barbara Jacobs Small of Transformative Communication Partners (TCP) St. Lucia a session on participatory approaches to disaster awareness campaigns as part of a Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) workshop for senior broadcast managers in the region. The CBA workshop on Emergency and Disaster Management for Broadcasters was held on 29 to 30 October 2012 in Trinidad & Tobago. The session introduced COL-TCP-Caribbean and COL’s work with participatory learning communication to the participants; analysed the current situation, communication programmes and disaster awareness; shared a practical tool that illustrated COL’s approach; and identified opportunities for follow-up. Thirty-seven people participated in the COL session, including attendees from across the Commonwealth Caribbean, as well as representatives of the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Suriname, United Kingdom and United States. Mr Colin Trotman of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas attended the workshop.

Regional OER Workshop

The Regional OER workshop was held in Jamaica from 5 to 7 November 2012. This workshop followed through on the outcomes of the Paris Declaration, which was finalised at the OER World Congress in Paris in June 2012. The purpose of the workshop was to:

► develop a common understanding of the concept of OER and its potential to contribute to improving education in the Caribbean countries;
► define concrete contributions that OER can make in achieving key regional and national educational policy objectives;
► explore the policy requirements to create an enabling environment for effective use of OER and sharing of publicly financed educational resources under open licences; and
define a roadmap for the development of effective, practical OER country policies and plans in the Caribbean.

Ms Michelle Sears of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and COL’s Focal Point attended the workshop.

Cost and Financing for Open Schools
To ensure sustainable open schools that will increase access to learning opportunities, it is important that open schools adopt the correct systems and policies. Key among these is a cost and financing system. Dr Pandora Johnson of the College of The Bahamas attended a cost and financing workshop in Barbados from 12 to 17 August 2013.

VUSSC Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop
On 24 to 25 March 2014, VUSSC Interlocutors of the Caribbean region participated in a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) workshop held in Trinidad & Tobago, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Development, to evaluate the VUSSC M&E plan, update the VUSSC logic model and explore tools used for the collection and analysis of data.

MATERIALS
Research Report on Community Learning in the Eastern Caribbean
A study into the availability, quality and usage of non-formal health/development educational opportunities, specifically ODL and communication for development programmes in Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean, was conducted by Transformative Communication Partners Caribbean between September and December 2012, with the results presented in 2013.

New VUSSC Courses
During 2013–2014, 11 VUSSC courses were completed including: Master’s in Educational Leadership, Bachelor’s in Business and Entrepreneurship, Diploma in Agriculture, Linux for IT Managers, Facilitating Online Instruction, and Sustainable Tourism. Courses are available to all VUSSC member states on the VUSSC website. Approximately 49,000 people have been reached or trained, including senior officials, educators and over 1,300 learners enrolled in VUSSC-developed courses and programmes.

VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education
Senior officials of the small states identified a need to develop a teacher education programme, especially at the postgraduate level, to help address the acute shortage of teachers in most of the small states and the lack of training programmes in most teacher training institutions. COL therefore facilitated a workshop, in collaboration with the National University of Samoa, to develop a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). It ran from 17 June to 3 July 2013 in Samoa, with 28 participants from 14 countries. Much of the course was developed using OER.

Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism
In collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), a workshop to review the Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism was held in Barbados from 17 to 20 March 2014. The VUSSC Education Specialist participated and co-facilitated the workshop to review and update the two courses. Sixteen institutions will be implementing the revised curriculum. Ms Valderine Hamilton of the Culinary and Hospitality Management Institute, College of The Bahamas, participated in the workshop.

MODELS
Transnational Qualifications Framework
The Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF) was used as a reference point to finalise the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Qualifications Framework, which was completed and referenced against the TQF. This means that all VUSSC courses offered by institutions in the Caribbean will be registered on the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised both at the regional and international levels.

POLICIES
Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education
The Second Consultation Meeting for the finalisation and adoption of the draft CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education was held in Trinidad & Tobago on 27 to 28 September 2012. Twenty-five participants from member states of CARICOM were represented at the meeting. The next stage is to adapt the standards to suit the policies and realities of each country.

Regional ODL Policy Framework
In collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), COL facilitated a roundtable from 19 to 22 June 2012 at the UWI campus in Barbados. Twelve participants from Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & The Grenadines attended the roundtable. The draft Regional ODL Policy Framework for the Caribbean, which resulted from the workshop, was circulated to the non-represented stakeholders in the Caribbean, including CARICOM, for their comments.
To move forward on the adoption of the regional framework by member countries, COL met with Dr Morella Joseph, Programme Manager for Human Resource Development, CARICOM, on 8 May 2013 in Trinidad & Tobago. As per the action plan, the draft Regional ODL Policy Framework was presented in the ministerial meeting organised by CARICOM, from 20 to 22 May 2013, in Jamaica. The framework was endorsed by the Ministers. A workshop held from 24 to 25 March 2014 in Trinidad & Tobago reviewed the final draft before it was proposed to the meeting of Caribbean Education Ministers.

The regional ODL policy has been finalised with CARICOM, and approved by the Ministers of Education. It is awaiting formal ratification.
**CONTEXT**

Barbados is a small state of the Commonwealth and the most eastern of the Caribbean islands, with a population of about 286,000. Barbados ranks high among Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries in terms of social and economic indicators. It has contributed to COL's budget since 2005 and takes an active role in COL's regional activities.

**AGREED PRIORITIES**

- Develop and promote a research culture using IT solutions to encourage development of indigenous education materials
- Develop course materials that are adaptable for students with special needs
- Streamline and standardise courses to enhance relevance and allow for accreditation
- Develop skilled specialists in technology and the redressing of the digital divide through infrastructural development
- Establish alliances with other institutions and sectors for information/resource sharing, collaborative course development and delivery, articulation and credit transfer

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL**

- Barbados Community College offered the VUSSC course on Sustainable Agriculture in Small States
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- VUSSC/CTO Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism made available

**COL’S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS**

**National MDG Targets Addressed by COL**

- Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications

**COL's Work on Barbados's MDG Targets**

- VUSSC is committed to the collaborative development of open content resources for education, training and capacity-building, and the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) to broaden access to education
- Capacity-building, materials development and policy support for sharing open educational resources (OER) and promoting ODL are underway

**QUICK NOTES**

**COL Focal Point:**

- Mr Laurie King, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation

**Notable Mentions:**

- Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald is a COL Honorary Advisor
- Dr Joel Warrican is the COL-UNESCO Chair at the University of the West Indies (UWI)- Open Campus

**Areas of COL's Work in Barbados:**

- Open Schooling
- Teacher Education
- Higher Education
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
- Healthy Communities
- eLearning
COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

**PARTNERSHIPS**
COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

- Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
- Development
- University of the West Indies (UWI)
- Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development
- Barbados Community College
- Barbados Accreditation Council

**CAPACITY**
Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

- Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns
- Regional OER workshop
- Cost and Financing for Open Schools
- Regional Workshop on Flexible and Blended Model of Skills Training
- Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
- Community Learning Programme Developer’s Certificate

**MATERIALS**
Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

- Research Report on Community Learning in the Caribbean
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available

**MODELS**
A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

- Transnational Qualifications Framework
- Flexible and Blended model of TVET

**POLICIES**
A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

- CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education
- Regional ODL Policy Framework
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for Barbados was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Barbados. The following areas were identified:

- Providing of open schooling for marginalised youth
- Addressing of deviant and violent behaviour among students (bullying)
- Development of technical and vocational education and training (TVET)
- Providing online learning support for Virtual Campus (online modality)
- Supporting of VUSSC and the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN)
- Assisting of institutions seeking accreditation to complete institutional self-study
- Development of institutional policy
- Development of materials for Climate Change Adaptation Project
Appendix: COL Activities in Barbados

PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)
Barbados is a member of VUSSC.

COL/UNESCO Chair at the University of the West Indies (UWI)
The activity plan and nomination for the Chair were received from UWI. The budget is currently being finalised.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan–Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)
COL sponsored the following people to the forum: Mr Laurie King of the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation.

Regional Focal Points Meeting
Mr Laurie King, Chief Education Officer of the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, attended the Meeting.

VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting
The VUSSC Interlocutors meet every three years to review developments, achievements and lessons learned. The VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting coincides with the Pan–Commonwealth Forum (PCF). PCF7 was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 6 December 2013. At this meeting, Interlocutors participated in a half-day impact evaluation workshop with COL's impact evaluators, Dr Stephen Murgatroyd and Ms Janet Tully. Highlights of the Interlocutors Meeting included a discussion of the post-MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), current VUSSC resources, and the importance of gender in the VUSSC initiative. At the close of the meeting, the following countries expressed interest in offering VUSSC courses: Barbados, Vanuatu, Namibia, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, Maldives, Grenada and Dominica. Mr Laurie King of the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation represented Barbados at this meeting.

CAPACITY

Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns
COL co-facilitated with Ms Barbara Jacobs Small of Transformative Communication Partners (TCP) St. Lucia a session on participatory approaches to disaster awareness campaigns as part of a Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) workshop for senior broadcast managers in the region. The CBA workshop on Emergency and Disaster Management for Broadcasters was held on 29 to 30 October 2012 in Trinidad & Tobago. The session introduced COL-TCP-Caribbean and COL's work with participatory learning communication to the participants; analysed the current situation, communication programmes and disaster awareness; shared a practical tool that illustrated COL's approach; and identified opportunities for follow-up. Thirty-seven people participated in the COL session, including attendees from across the Commonwealth Caribbean, as well as representatives of the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Suriname, United Kingdom and United States. Mr Rodwell London, Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, Mr Patrick Cozier, Caribbean Broadcasting Union, Ms Sandy Deane, Caribbean Media Corporation, Ms Veoma Ali, One Caribbean Media Network, and Mr Stetson Babb, Starcom attended the workshop.

Regional OER Workshop
The Regional OER workshop was held in Jamaica from 5 to 7 November 2012. This workshop followed through on the outcomes of the Paris Declaration, which was finalised at the OER World Congress in Paris in June 2012. The purpose of the workshop was to:

► develop a common understanding of the concept of OER and its potential to contribute to improving education in the Caribbean countries;
► define concrete contributions that OER can make in achieving key regional and national educational policy objectives;
► explore the policy requirements to create an enabling environment for effective use of OER and sharing of publicly financed educational resources under open licences; and
► define a roadmap for the development of effective, practical OER country policies and plans in the Caribbean.

Dr Idamay Denny of the Caribbean Development Bank and Dr Roderick Rudder of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development attended the workshop. Several presentations were made during the workshop, including Dr Rudder's paper titled “OER Policy in Barbados.”

Cost and Financing for Open Schools
To ensure sustainable open schools that will increase access to learning opportunities, it is important that open schools adopt the correct systems and policies. Key among these is a cost and financing system. Dr Didacus Jules, Mr Anderson Marshall, Ms Sharon Owrich and Ms Camella Linsey attended a cost and financing workshop in Barbados from 12 to 17 August 2013.
Regional Workshop on Flexible and Blended TVET Model

From 17 to 20 February 2014, COL co-facilitated a workshop in Barbados on the Flexible and Blended model of skills training with 21 participants from 10 Caribbean countries. Equity in access to skills training was a key discussion point. Mr Henderson Eastmond of TVET Council Barbados and Mr George Renee of Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic attended the meeting.

VUSSC Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop

On 24 to 25 March 2014, VUSSC Interlocutors of the Caribbean region participated in a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) workshop held in Trinidad & Tobago, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Development, to evaluate the VUSSC M&E plan, update the VUSSC logic model and explore tools used for the collection and analysis of data. Mr Laurie King represented Barbados at this workshop.

Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate

Four regional distance training and mentoring courses have been developed and delivered through a partnership between COL and its Healthy Communities partners as part of the Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate, which will result in new CLP design and delivery.

The 5-week “Communication for Development (C4D): Why. How. Now.” e-course was run in February to March 2014. Three participants (all women), one from the Barbados Association Of Office Professionals, Women and Development Unit and two from the Barbados National Organisation of the Disabled were involved in the training.

The 10-week “Research for Planning” e-course was run in 2014. In April to June 2014, one participant (a woman) from Barbados was engaged in the training and mentoring course, resulting in comprehensive plans for community learning programmes based on formative research.

The 5-week “Communication Channels and Media Forms” e-course was run in 2014. In August 2014, one participant from Barbados received training resulting in a completed CLP plan.

The 6-week “Participatory Learning Design” (blended) e-course was run in 2014. In September to October 2014, one participant from Barbados received training, which will result in a completed CLP design document.

The 6-week “Scriptwriting and Episode Production” (blended) e-course is run in 2014/2015.

The 5-week “Sustainability and Sponsorship” e-course is being run in 2015.

MATERIALS

Research Report on Community Learning in the Eastern Caribbean

A study into the availability, quality and usage of non-formal health/development educational opportunities, specifically ODL and communication for development programmes in Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean, was conducted by Transformative Communication Partners Caribbean between September and December 2012, with the results presented in 2013.

New VUSSC Courses

During 2013–2014, 11 VUSSC courses were completed including the: Master’s in Educational Leadership, Bachelor’s in Business and Entrepreneurship, Diploma in Agriculture, Linux for IT Managers, Facilitating Online Instruction, and Sustainable Tourism. Courses are available to all VUSSC member states on the VUSSC website. Approximately 49,000 people have been reached or trained, including senior officials, educators and over 1,300 learners enrolled in VUSSC-developed courses and programmes.

Sustainable Agriculture in Small States Course

Barbados Community College began offering the VUSSC course on Sustainable Agriculture in Small States in 2013.

VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education

Senior officials of the small states identified a need to develop a teacher education programme, especially at the postgraduate level, to help address the acute shortage of teachers in most of the small states and the lack of training programmes in most teacher training institutions. COL therefore facilitated a workshop, in collaboration with the National University of Samoa, to develop a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). It ran from 17 June to 3 July 2013 in Samoa, with 28 participants from 14 countries. Much of the course was developed using OER.

Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism

In collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), a workshop to review the Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism was held in Barbados from 17 to 20 March 2014. The VUSSC Education Specialist participated and co-facilitated the workshop to review and update the two courses. Sixteen institutions will be implementing the revised curriculum. Ms Juan Young-Lovell and Mr Roderick Prescod of Barbados Community College Hospitality Institute (Hotel PomMarine) participated in the workshop.
Partnership for Sourcing of Open Source Digital Content

CXC will submit a proposal to COL for a contribution agreement, the focus of which will be the sourcing of existing, or development of new, open source digital content that will be prioritised and informed by the CXC Examiners’ Reports on candidate performance.

MODELS

Transnational Qualifications Framework

The Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF) was used as a reference point to finalise the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Qualifications Framework, which was completed and referenced against the TQF. This means that all VUSSC courses offered by institutions in the Caribbean will be registered on the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised both at the regional and international levels.

Flexible and Blended Model of TVET

The FaB model of flexible skills development supports the integration of technology to help TVET systems become more relevant and responsive. COL strengthens the capacity of TVET educators, managers and policy advisers, across four dimensions: strategic planning, organisational development, ICT infrastructure management and teaching and learning. Adoption of this model can lead to quality improvement in programme delivery and can lead to increased access to TVET.

The FaB model seeks to increase access to TVET through efficiency gains but also by targeting learners who are currently locked out of the TVET system. These target groups include people working in the informal sector, remote and rural dwellers and people with disabilities. Resolving inequity is a central philosophy.

POLICIES

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education

The Second Consultation Meeting for the finalisation and adoption of the draft CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education was held in Trinidad & Tobago on 27 to 28 September 2012. Twenty-five participants from member states of CARICOM were represented at the meeting. The next stage is to adapt the standards to suit the policies and realities of each country.

Regional ODL Policy Framework

In collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), COL facilitated a roundtable from 19 to 22 June 2012 at the UWI campus in Barbados. Twelve participants from Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & The Grenadines attended the roundtable.

The draft Regional ODL Policy Framework for the Caribbean, which resulted from the workshop, was circulated to the non-represented stakeholders in the Caribbean, including CARICOM, for their comments.

To move forward on the adoption of the regional framework by member countries, COL met with Dr Morella Joseph, Programme Manager for Human Resource Development, CARICOM, on 8 May 2013 in Trinidad & Tobago. As per the action plan, the draft Regional ODL Policy Framework was presented in the ministerial meeting organised by CARICOM, 20 to 22 May 2013, in Jamaica. The framework was endorsed by the Ministers. A workshop held 24 to 25 March 2014 in Trinidad & Tobago reviewed the final draft before it was proposed to the meeting of Caribbean Education Ministers. Ms Summa Stephens from the CXC attended the workshop.

The regional ODL policy has been finalised with CARICOM, and approved by the Ministers of Education. It is awaiting formal ratification.
**CONTEXT**

Belize is a small state of the Commonwealth with a population of about 330,000. Much of the country’s natural environment is unspoilt, and there is strong emphasis on environmental education. Teacher education is another key priority for the Government of Belize. Belize contributes regularly to COL’s budget.

**AGREED PRIORITIES**

- Develop a national policy and strategic plan for open and distance learning (ODL), with specific implementation plans at the institutional level
- Expand the technical and human resource capacity of tertiary-level institutions to deliver courses online, including existing face-to-face courses and a national general secondary education (GED) programme
- Provide training for teachers in ODL techniques and instructional design
- Access to open courses available in the Commonwealth
- Develop teacher capacity in information and communication technologies (ICT) for teaching and learning

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL**

- National ICT in Education Strategy drafted
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- New Open School established

**COL’S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS**

**National MDG Targets Addressed by COL**

- Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications

**COL’s Work on Belize’s MDG Targets**

- VUSSC is committed to the collaborative development of open content resources for education, training and capacity-building, and the use of ICTs to broaden access to education
- Capacity-building, materials development and policy support for sharing open educational resources (OER) and promoting open and distance learning (ODL) are underway

**QUICK NOTES**

**COL Focal Point:**

- Mr Christopher Aird, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

**Areas of COL’s Work in Belize:**

- Open Schooling
- Teacher Education
- Higher Education
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
- Healthy Communities
- eLearning
COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
- Gwen Lizarraga High School
- University of Belize

**CAPACITY**

Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

- Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns
- Regional OER workshop
- Gender Mainstreaming for Open Schools
- Cost and Financing for Open Schools
- Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended Model of Skills Training
- Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
- Community Learning Programme Development Training and Mentoring

**MATERIALS**

Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

- Research Report on Community Learning in the Caribbean
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit

**MODELS**

A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

- Open School at Gwen Lizarraga High School
- Referencing of the Transnational Qualifications Framework
- Flexible and Blended model of TVET

**POLICIES**

A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

- CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education
- Regional ODL Policy Framework
- National ICT in Education Strategy
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for Belize was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Belize. The following areas were identified:

► Development of technical and vocational skills, including training for teachers in vocational education

► Training of farmers through ODL, including the promotion of an inclusive, competitive and sustainable agriculture and food sector, and cross-cutting issues such as climate change and variations

► Strategic health planning and development of a health policy
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Belize

PARTNERSHIPS

COMOSA (Commonwealth Open Schools Association)
Twenty-two partners signed the COMOSA constitution, including Gwen Lizarraga High School and the University of Belize.

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)
Belize is a member of VUSSC.

Centre for Open and Distance Learning at the University of Belize
A draft plan for the development of a centre for ODL at the University of Belize was developed with the assistance of COL. A meeting with university officials was held in March 2014 to review the draft plan.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Regional Focal Points Meeting
Mrs Yvonne Palma, Education Officer of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, attended the meeting.

VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting
The VUSSC Interlocutors meet every three years to review developments, achievements and lessons learned. The VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting coincides with the Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF). PCF7 was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 6 December 2013. At this meeting, Interlocutors participated in a half-day impact evaluation workshop with COL’s impact evaluators, Dr Stephen Murgatroyd and Ms Janet Tully. Highlights of the Interlocutors Meeting included a discussion of the post-MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), current VUSSC resources, and the importance of gender in the VUSSC initiative. At the close of the meeting, the following countries expressed interest in offering VUSSC courses: Barbados, Vanuatu, Namibia, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, Maldives, Grenada and Dominica. Belize was not represented at this meeting.

COMOSA Planning Meeting and Theory of Change Workshop
Bangladesh Open University, in collaboration with COL, hosted a COMOSA Planning Meeting as well as Theory of Change workshops in Dhaka from 30 September to 3 October 2014. Ms Maxine Charishia McKay and Ms Beverly Faber of the University of Belize and Ms Lorna McKay of Gwen Lizarraga High School participated in the meeting and workshops.

CAPACITY

Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns
COL co-facilitated with Ms Barbara Jacobs Small of Transformative Communication Partners (TCP) St. Lucia a session on participatory approaches to disaster awareness campaigns as part of a Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) workshop for senior broadcast managers in the region. The CBA workshop on Emergency and Disaster Management for Broadcasters was held on 29 to 30 October 2012 in Trinidad & Tobago. The session introduced COL-TCP-Caribbean and COL’s work with participatory learning communication to the participants; analysed the current situation, communication programmes and disaster awareness; shared a practical tool that illustrated COL’s approach; and identified opportunities for follow-up. Thirty-seven people participated in the COL session, including attendees from across the Commonwealth Caribbean, as well as representatives of the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Suriname, United Kingdom and United States. Ms Amalia Mai of Great Belize Productions (GBP) attended the workshop.

Regional OER Workshop
The Regional OER workshop was held in Jamaica from 5 to 7 November 2012. This workshop followed through on the outcomes of the Paris Declaration, which was finalised at the OER World Congress in Paris in June 2012. The purpose of the workshop was to:
► develop a common understanding of the concept of OER and its potential to contribute to improving education in the Caribbean countries;
► define concrete contributions that OER can make in achieving key regional and national educational policy objectives;
► explore the policy requirements to create an enabling environment for effective use of OER and sharing of publicly financed educational resources under open licences; and
► define a roadmap for the development of effective, practical OER country policies and plans in the Caribbean.
Ruel Amir Cima and Deryck Sydney Satchwell of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports attended the workshop.
Gender Mainstreaming for Open Schools

To ensure that open schools mainstream gender in their activities, COL organised a COMOSA workshop 13 to 17 March 2013 in Delhi, India, to discuss the Gender Equality Guidelines developed by a COL consultant. Attending the workshop were 19 representatives from Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Canada, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and United Kingdom.

Cost and Financing for Open Schools

To ensure sustainable open schools that will increase access to learning opportunities, it is important that open schools adopt the correct systems and policies. Key among these is a cost and financing system. Dr Lorna Mckay and Ms Rose Pineda attended a cost and financing workshop in Barbados from 12 to 17 August 2013.

Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended Model of Skills Training

From 17 to 20 February 2014, COL co-facilitated a workshop in Barbados on the Flexible and Blended model of skills training with 21 participants from 10 Caribbean countries. Equity in access to skills training was a key discussion point. Dr Margarita Gomez of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports attended the meeting.

VUSSC Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop

On 24 to 25 March 2014, VUSSC Interlocutors of the Caribbean region participated in a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) workshop held in Trinidad & Tobago, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Development, to evaluate the VUSSC M&E plan, update the VUSSC logic model and explore tools used for the collection and analysis of data.

Community Learning Programme Development Training and Mentoring

Three regional distance training and mentoring courses have been developed and delivered through a partnership between the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC), Transformative Communication Partners (TCP) Caribbean and COL.

The 5-week “Communication for Development (C4D); Why. How. Now.” e-course was run in February to March 2014. One participant (a man) from the community media group (Dangriga) of the National Garifuna Council took part in the training.

The 10-week “Research for Planning” e-course was run in 2014. In April to June 2014, one participant (a man) from Belize was engaged in the training and mentoring course, resulting in comprehensive plans for community learning programmes based on formative research.

MATERIALS

Research Report on Community Learning in the Eastern Caribbean

A study into the availability, quality and usage of non-formal health/development educational opportunities, specifically ODL and communication for development programmes in Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean, was conducted by Transformative Communication Partners Caribbean between September and December 2012, with the results presented in 2013.

New VUSSC Courses

During 2013–2014, 11 VUSSC courses were completed including: Master’s in Educational Leadership, Bachelor’s in Business and Entrepreneurship, Diploma in Agriculture, Linux for IT Managers, Facilitating Online Instruction, and Sustainable Tourism. Courses are available to all VUSSC member states on the VUSSC website. Approximately 49,000 people have been reached or trained, including senior officials, educators and over 1,300 learners enrolled in VUSSC-developed courses and programmes.

VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education

Senior officials of the small states identified a need to develop a teacher education programme, especially at the postgraduate level, to help address the acute shortage of teachers in most of the small states and the lack of training programmes in most teacher training institutions. COL therefore facilitated a workshop, in collaboration with the National University of Samoa, to develop a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). It ran from 17 June to 3 July 2013 in Samoa, with 28 participants from 14 countries. Much of the course was developed using OER. Attending the workshop was Ms Yvonne Palma, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Curriculum, Instructional Materials Development, Teacher Training and Vocational Education Training.

Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism

In collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), a workshop to review the Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism was held in Barbados from 17 to 20 March 2014. The VUSSC Education Specialist participated and co-facilitated the workshop to review and update the two courses. Sixteen institutions will be implementing the revised curriculum. Ms Sharett Yearwood of the University of Belize participated in the workshop.
**Online Sustainable Tourism Course**

In addition to the 16 institutions offering the Associate Degree programme (face-to-face), the following institutions will be offering the online Sustainable Tourism course once it has been updated: St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Belize, Turks & Caicos, Barbados, Guyana, St Lucia, The Bahamas, Anguilla and Jamaica.

**Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit**

A regional workshop to review the draft toolkit on gender mainstreaming for teacher education institutions and get feedback on how to make it useful for teacher education institutions in the Caribbean region was held from 20 to 21 March 2014 in Kingston, Jamaica. Participants from Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago attended.

**MODELS**

**Open School at Gwen Lizarraga High School**

At the fourth AGM of COMOSA held in Delhi, India on 16 March 2013, the Caribbean and Canada Chapter developed a strategy to support the twinning of the Fraser Valley Distance Education School with the University of Belize to establish and develop an open school that will support the training of women to acquire secondary education, incorporating online experiences and face-to-face instruction. The first workshop from this twinning took place 19 to 22 June 2013.

The University of Belize signed an agreement with COL to support the establishment of the open school at Gwen Lizarraga High School. A meeting was held with the leaders at the university to establish the support relationship to the school as well as to discuss the challenges that could be experienced. The open school was officially launched on 23 August 2013.

A workshop was held to train the teachers on open schooling, and also served as a consultative platform to ensure ownership amongst teachers. Refined Gender Guidelines are being pilot-tested with the open school. Three gender workshops in Strategic Planning, Management Systems, and Learner Support Services were held as part of this testing in 2014. In preparation for the process of developing the Gender Equality Policy, COL held a one-day workshop in November 2014 to raise more awareness about gender and to discuss an outline of a gender policy.

In the same month, COL attended a one-day workshop at the school to review the curriculum content developed by the teachers on NotesMaster; attended the launch of OER for seven subjects in the open school; and met with numerous stakeholders, including Dr Carol Babb from the Ministry of Education, COL Focal Point Mr Christopher Aird, and Dr Cynthia Thompson of the University of Belize to update them on COL’s work in open schooling in the country.

**Referencing of the Transnational Qualifications Framework**

The Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF) was used as a reference point to finalise the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Qualifications Framework, which was completed and referenced against the TQF. This means that all VUSSC courses offered by institutions in the Caribbean will be registered on the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised both at the regional and international levels.

**Flexible and Blended model of TVET**

The FaB model of flexible skills development supports the integration of technology to help TVET systems become more relevant and responsive. COL strengthens the capacity of TVET educators, managers and policy advisers, across four dimensions: strategic planning, organisational development, ICT infrastructure management and teaching and learning. Adoption of this model can lead to quality improvement in programme delivery and can lead to increased access to TVET.

The FaB model seeks to increase access to TVET through efficiency gains but also by targeting learners who are currently locked out of the TVET system. These target groups include people working in the informal sector, remote and rural dwellers and people with disabilities. Resolving inequity is a central philosophy.

**POLICIES**

**CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education**

The Second Consultation Meeting for the finalisation and adoption of the draft CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education was held in Trinidad & Tobago on 27 to 28 September 2012. Twenty-five participants from member states of CARICOM, including Ms Cecilia Smith from Ministry of Education Belize, were present at the meeting. The next stage is to adapt the standards to suit the policies and realities of each country.

**Regional ODL Policy Framework**

In collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), COL facilitated a roundtable from 19 to 22 June 2012 at the
UWI campus in Barbados. Twelve participants from Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & The Grenadines attended the roundtable.

The draft Regional ODL Policy Framework for the Caribbean, which resulted from the workshop, was circulated to the non-represented stakeholders in the Caribbean, including CARICOM, for their comments.

To move forward on the adoption of the regional framework by member countries, COL met with Dr Morella Joseph, Programme Manager for Human Resource Development, CARICOM, on 8 May 2013 in Trinidad & Tobago. As per the action plan, the draft Regional ODL Policy Framework was presented in the ministerial meeting organised by CARICOM, from 20 to 22 May 2013, in Jamaica. The framework was endorsed by the Ministers. A workshop held from 24 to 25 March 2014 in Trinidad & Tobago reviewed the final draft before it was proposed to the meeting of Caribbean Education Ministers. Ms Beverly Faber attended the workshop.

The regional ODL policy has been finalised with CARICOM, and approved by the Ministers of Education. It is awaiting formal ratification.

**National ICT in Education Strategy**

In June 2013, COL met with key officials from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the University of Belize to discuss COL support for the development of a Belize ICT in Education strategy. A one-day stakeholder consultation meeting was held in Belize City to gather input for the strategy. A draft strategy was completed in February and COL met with ministry officials in March 2014 to review it.
DOMINICA

CONTEXT

Dominica is a small state of the Commonwealth with a population of about 73,000. Known for its unspoilt natural beauty, the island nation is a developing economy with a dominant agricultural base. Dominica has contributed to COL's budget since 2009/2010.

COL'S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS

National MDG Targets Addressed by COL
► Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications

COL's Work on Dominica's MDG Targets
► VUSSC is committed to the collaborative development of open content resources for education, training and capacity-building, and the use of ICTs to broaden access to education
► Capacity-building, materials development and policy support for sharing open educational resources (OER) and promoting open and distance learning (ODL) are underway

AGREED PRIORITIES

► Develop online delivery content system for distributing flash videos and lessons
► Train teachers in instructional design for online learning and videography
► Develop a National Qualifications Framework
► Train teachers to teach courses, such as Sustainable Agriculture online
► Develop the information and communication technology (ICT) capacity of teachers
► Train teachers to develop supportive online materials

QUICK NOTES

COL Board:
► His Excellency Hubert John Charles Ambassador to the USA and Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS) is the appointed regional representative of the Caribbean on COL's Board of Governors

COL Focal Point:
► Mrs Chandler Hyacinth, Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development

Areas of COL's Work in Dominica:
► Teacher Education
► Higher Education
► Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
► Healthy Communities
► eLearning

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL

► 11 new VUSSC courses made available
COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

**PARTNERSHIPS**
COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

- Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development
- Dominica State College

**CAPACITY**
Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

- Regional OER workshop
- Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC

**MATERIALS**
Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

- Research Report on Community Learning in the Eastern Caribbean
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- Open Textbooks Development Concept Paper

**MODELS**
A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

- Transnational Qualifications Framework

**POLICIES**
A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

- CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education
- Regional ODL Policy Framework
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for Dominica was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Dominica. The following areas were identified:

► Training of teachers to teach courses online (e.g., Sustainable Agriculture)
► Expanding the ICT capacity of teachers (e.g., about multimedia learning and development of multimedia learning materials)
► Training of teachers to develop supportive online materials for eLearning and other ODL methodologies
► Training in resources external to the college environment, for example in: graphic art and multimedia (videography, etc.), instructional design, e-content management, project management, creative writing, quality control and policy development
► Development of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (e.g., through study tours to review the current set-up of other countries’ departments)
► Support for ODL

LOOKING FORWARD: 2015–2021
PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

Dominica is a member of VUSSC.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)

COL sponsored the following people to the forum: Dr Donald Collin Peters from Dominica State College.

Regional Focal Points Meeting

Mrs Chandler Hyacinth, Ag. Senior Administrative Officer, Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, represented Dominica at the meeting.

VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting

The VUSSC Interlocutors meet every three years to review developments, achievements and lessons learned. The VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting coincides with the Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF). PCF7 was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 6 December 2013. At this meeting, Interlocutors participated in a half-day impact evaluation workshop with COL's impact evaluators, Dr Stephen Murgatroyd and Ms Janet Tully. Highlights of the Interlocutors Meeting included a discussion of the post-MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), current VUSSC resources, and the importance of gender in the VUSSC initiative. At the close of the meeting, the following countries expressed interest in offering VUSSC courses: Barbados, Vanuatu, Namibia, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, Maldives, Grenada and Dominica. Dr Donald C. Peters, President of Dominica State College, represented Dominica at this meeting.

CAPACITY

Regional OER Workshop

The Regional OER workshop was held in Jamaica from 5 to 7 November 2012. This workshop followed through on the outcomes of the Paris Declaration, which was finalised at the OER World Congress in Paris in June 2012. The purpose of the workshop was to:

► develop a common understanding of the concept of OER and its potential to contribute to improving education in the Caribbean countries;
► define concrete contributions that OER can make in achieving key regional and national educational policy objectives;
► explore the policy requirements to create an enabling environment for effective use of OER and sharing of publicly financed educational resources under open licences; and
► define a roadmap for the development of effective, practical OER country policies and plans in the Caribbean.

Ms Catherine Abraham of the Dominica State College and Mrs Irene Ducreay and Mr Nicholas Goldberg, both of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, attended the workshop.

VUSSC Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop

On 24 to 25 March 2014, VUSSC Interlocutors of the Caribbean region participated in a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) workshop held in Trinidad & Tobago, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Development, to evaluate the VUSSC M&E plan, update the VUSSC logic model and explore tools used for the collection and analysis of data.

MATERIALS

Research Report on Community Learning in the Eastern Caribbean

A study into the availability, quality and usage of non-formal health/development educational opportunities, specifically ODL and communication for development programmes in Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean, was conducted by Transformative Communication Partners Caribbean between September and December 2012, with the results presented in 2013.

New VUSSC Courses

During 2013–2014, 11 VUSSC courses were completed including: Master's in Educational Leadership, Bachelor's in Business and Entrepreneurship, Diploma in Agriculture, Linux for IT Managers, Facilitating Online Instruction, and Sustainable Tourism. Courses are available to all VUSSC member states on the VUSSC website. Approximately 49,000 people have been reached or trained, including senior officials, educators and over 1,300 learners enrolled in VUSSC-developed courses and programmes.

VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education

Senior officials of the small states identified a need to develop a teacher education programme, especially at the postgraduate level, to help address the acute shortage of teachers in most of the small states and the lack of training programmes in most teacher training institutions. COL therefore facilitated a workshop, in collaboration with the National University of Samoa, to develop a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). It ran from 17 June to 3 July 2013 in Samoa, with
28 participants from 14 countries. Much of the course was developed using OER. Mr Michael Green, Instructional/Methods, Child Development Education, attended the workshop.

**Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism**

In collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), a workshop to review the Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism was held in Barbados from 17 to 20 March 2014. The VUSSC Education Specialist participated and co-facilitated the workshop to review and update the two courses. Sixteen institutions will be implementing the revised curriculum. Ms Katie Julien of Dominica State College participated in the workshop.

**Open Textbooks Development Concept Paper**

A regional Open Textbooks Forum was held in Antigua & Barbuda, 19 to 20 June 2013, which resulted in an agreement to develop a concept paper on the development of open textbooks for the Eastern Caribbean school curriculum. OECS Education Ministers’ endorsed the open textbook proposal of COL in the 33rd meeting in Antigua & Barbuda from 14 to 16 October 2013. A total of 12 participants from the six Commonwealth members of the OECS, plus a representative of the OECS and a representative from Guyana, participated. Mr Nicholas Goldberg of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development attended the forum.

**MODELS**

**Transnational Qualifications Framework**

The Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF) was used as a reference point to finalise the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Qualifications Framework, which was completed and referenced against the TQF. This means that all VUSSC courses offered by institutions in the Caribbean will be registered on the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised both at the regional and international levels.

**POLICIES**

**CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education**

The Second Consultation Meeting for the finalisation and adoption of the draft CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education was held in Trinidad & Tobago on 27 to 28 September 2012. Twenty-five participants from member states of CARICOM were represented at the meeting. The next stage is to adapt the standards to suit the policies and realities of each country.

**Regional ODL Policy Framework**

In collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), COL facilitated a roundtable from 19 to 22 June 2012 at the UWI campus in Barbados. Twelve participants from Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & The Grenadines attended the roundtable.

The draft Regional ODL Policy Framework for the Caribbean, which resulted from the workshop, was circulated to the non-represented stakeholders in the Caribbean, including CARICOM, for their comments.

To move forward on the adoption of the regional framework by member countries, COL met with Dr Morella Joseph, Programme Manager for Human Resource Development, CARICOM, on 8 May 2013 in Trinidad & Tobago. As per the action plan, the draft Regional ODL Policy Framework was presented in the ministerial meeting organised by CARICOM, from 20 to 22 May 2013, in Jamaica. The framework was endorsed by the Ministers. A workshop held from 24 to 25 March 2014 in Trinidad & Tobago reviewed the final draft before it was proposed to the meeting of Caribbean Education Ministers. Mr Robert Goiste attended the workshop.

The regional ODL policy has been finalised with CARICOM, and approved by the Ministers of Education. It is awaiting formal ratification.
**CONTEXT**

Grenada is a small state of the Commonwealth with a population of just over 100,000, which is largely rural. Enrolment rates are high for both primary and secondary education. Grenada contributes regularly to COL's budget.

**AGREED PRIORITIES**

- Train teachers in TVET and Special Education
- Provide training and technical expertise to the agricultural and agribusiness sector
- Give technical support and training to staff to help them implement the Distance Education Plan for T.A. Marryshow Community College and ODL at the secondary level
- Provide training in conservation and environmental management, clean energy development, and land surveying
- Build capacity in human resource development (HRD) to execute a national HRD skills audit and sector analysis

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL**

- Teacher training in developing and teaching online courses offered
- ODL Policy drafted for T.A. Marryshow College
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- National ICT in Education Policy drafted

**COL'S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS**

**National MDG Targets Addressed by COL**

- Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications

**COL's Work on Grenada's MDG Targets**

- VUSSC is committed to the collaborative development of open content resources for education, training and capacity-building, and the use of ICTs to broaden access to education
- Capacity-building, materials development and policy support for sharing open educational resources (OER) and promoting open and distance learning (ODL) are underway

**QUICK NOTES**

**COL Focal Point:**

- Mr Andrew Augustine, Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development

**Areas of COL's Work in Grenada:**

- Teacher Education
- Higher Education
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
- Healthy Communities
- eLearning
COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

**PARTNERSHIPS**
COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

► Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development
► Grenada Broadcasting Network
► T.A. Marryshow Community College
► Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN)
► University of the West Indies (UWI)

**CAPACITY**
Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

► Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns
► Regional OER workshop
► Developing and Teaching Online Courses
► Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
► Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended Model of Skills Training

**MATERIALS**
Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

► Research Report on Community Learning in the Caribbean
► 11 new VUSSC courses made available
► Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration (CCTI)
► Open Textbooks Development

**MODELS**
A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

► Transnational Qualifications Framework
► Flexible and Blended model of TVET

**POLICIES**
A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

► CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education
► Regional ODL Policy Framework
► Draft Institutional ODL Policy
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for Grenada was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Grenada. The following areas were identified:

► Providing assistance to develop a National ODL Policy to govern all sectors
► Training of educational administrators, teachers, health educators and agricultural officers on the integration of ICT in education and the role of ODL in teaching and learning
► Focusing on the tertiary institution, T.A. Marryshow Community College, for training lecturers in the development and use of OERs, development of e-texts, and application of ODL for greater efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of all post-secondary and tertiary programmes
► Offering of continuing professional development with emphasis on using mobile and emerging technologies in the classroom and using ODL in learning
► Training of teachers and teacher-educators working in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) about flexible and blended, gender-sensitive learning and technology-enhanced course delivery
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Grenada

PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

Grenada is a member of VUSSC.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)

COL sponsored the following people to the forum: Ms Pauleen Ann Finlay from the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development.

Regional Focal Points Meeting

Mrs Andrea Phillip, Deputy Chief Education Officer—Curriculum of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, attended the meeting.

VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting

The VUSSC Interlocutors meet every three years to review developments, achievements and lessons learned. The VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting coincides with the Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF). PCF7 was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 6 December 2013. At this meeting, Interlocutors participated in a half-day impact evaluation workshop with COL’s impact evaluators, Dr Stephen Murgatroyd and Ms Janet Tully. Highlights of the Interlocutors Meeting included a discussion of the post-MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), current VUSSC resources, and the importance of gender in the VUSSC initiative. At the close of the meeting, the following countries expressed interest in offering VUSSC courses: Barbados, Vanuatu, Namibia, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, Maldives, Grenada and Dominica. Ms Pauleen Ann Finlay of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources represented Grenada at this meeting.

CAPACITY

Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns

COL co-facilitated with Ms Barbara Jacobs Small of Transformative Communication Partners (TCP) St. Lucia a session on participatory approaches to disaster awareness campaigns as part of a Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) workshop for senior broadcast managers in the region. The CBA workshop on Emergency and Disaster Management for Broadcasters was held on 29 to 30 October 2012 in Trinidad & Tobago. The session introduced COL-TCP-Caribbean and COL’s work with participatory learning communication to the participants; analysed the current situation, communication programmes and disaster awareness; shared a practical tool that illustrated COL’s approach; and identified opportunities for follow-up. Thirty-seven people participated in the COL session, including attendees from across the Commonwealth Caribbean, as well as representatives of the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Suriname, United Kingdom and United States. Ms Malaika Church and Mr Ryan Wallace of Grenada Broadcasting Network attended the workshop.

Regional OER Workshop

The Regional OER workshop was held in Jamaica from 5 to 7 November 2012. This workshop followed through on the outcomes of the Paris Declaration, which was finalised at the OER World Congress in Paris in June 2012. The purpose of the workshop was to:

► develop a common understanding of the concept of OER and its potential to contribute to improving education in the Caribbean countries;

► define concrete contributions that OER can make in achieving key regional and national educational policy objectives;

► explore the policy requirements to create an enabling environment for effective use of OER and sharing of publicly financed educational resources under open licences; and

► define a roadmap for the development of effective, practical OER country policies and plans in the Caribbean.

Mr Andrew Augustine (COL Focal Point) and Ms Marilyn Austin-Cadore, both from the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, attended the workshop.

Developing and Teaching Online Courses

COL met with officials from T.A. Marryshow Community College in 2012 who were keen to have COL provide faculty training in online course development and online teaching. It was agreed that the best way forward was to combine the online course development and teacher training with OER integration, since the best time to consider the use of OERs is in the design phase. The online course, Developing and Teaching Online Courses, was delivered to two cohorts of approximately 25 instructors from T.A. Marryshow Community College in 2013.

VUSSC Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop

On 24 to 25 March 2014, VUSSC Interlocutors of the Caribbean region participated in a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) workshop held in Trinidad & Tobago, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Development, to evaluate the VUSSC M&E plan, update the VUSSC logic model.
and explore tools used for the collection and analysis of data. **Ms Pauleen Ann Finlay** attended the meeting.

**Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended Model of Skills Training**

From 17 to 20 February 2014, COL co-facilitated a workshop in Barbados on the Flexible and Blended model of skills training with 21 participants from 10 Caribbean countries. Equity in access to skills training was a key discussion point. **Mr Lincoln Morgan** of the Grenada National Training Agency and **Dr John Telesford** of the T.A. Marrishow Community College attended the meeting.

**MATERIALS**

**Research Report on Community Learning in the Eastern Caribbean**

A study into the availability, quality and usage of non-formal health/development educational opportunities, specifically ODL and communication for development programmes in Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean, was conducted by Transformative Communication Partners Caribbean between September and December 2012, with the results presented in 2013.

**New VUSSC Courses**

During 2013–2014, 11 VUSSC courses were completed including: Master’s in Educational Leadership, Bachelor’s in Business and Entrepreneurship, Diploma in Agriculture, Linux for IT Managers, Facilitating Online Instruction, and Sustainable Tourism. Courses are available to all VUSSC member states on the VUSSC website. Approximately 49,000 people have been reached or trained, including senior officials, educators and over 1,300 learners enrolled in VUSSC-developed courses and programmes.

**VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education**

Senior officials of the small states identified a need to develop a teacher education programme, especially at the postgraduate level, to help address the acute shortage of teachers in most of the small states and the lack of training programmes in most teacher training institutions. COL therefore facilitated a workshop, in collaboration with the National University of Samoa, to develop a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). It ran from 17 June to 3 July 2013 in Samoa, with 28 participants from 14 countries. Much of the course was developed using OER. **Mr Michael Green**, Instructional/Methods, Child Development Education, attended the workshop.

**Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism**

In collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), a workshop to review the Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism was held in Barbados from 17 to 20 March 2014. The VUSSC Education Specialist participated and co-facilitated the workshop to review and update the two courses. Sixteen institutions will be implementing the revised curriculum. **Mrs Merlisia Polius-John** of T.A. Marrishow Community College participated in the workshop.

**Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration (CCTI)**

Agreement was reached to launch the CCTI programme in April 2013. An orientation workshop and the first module in CCTI were delivered between 22 April and 30 June 2013 to 25 educators. The first module of the programme was delivered, but there was high attrition and COL has been unable to gain a commitment from the local coordinator to continue the programme in Grenada.

**Concept Paper for Open Textbooks Development**

A regional Open Textbooks Forum was held in Antigua & Barbuda, from 19 to 20 June 2013, which resulted in an agreement to develop a concept paper on the development of open textbooks for the Eastern Caribbean school curriculum. **T OECS Education Ministers’** endorsed the open text book proposal in the 33rd meeting in Antigua & Barbuda in 14-16 October 2013. A total of 12 participants from the six Commonwealth members of the OECS, plus a representative of the OECS and a representative from Guyana, participated. **Mrs Andrea Phillip** and **Mr Imi Kelvin Chitterman** of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development attended the forum.

**MODELS**

**Transnational Qualifications Framework**

The Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF) was used as a reference point to finalise the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Qualifications Framework, which was completed and referenced against the TQF. This means that all VUSSC courses offered by institutions in the Caribbean will be registered on the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised both at the regional and international levels.

**Flexible and Blended Model of TVET**

The FaB model supports the integration of technology to help TVET systems become more relevant and responsive. COL strengthens the capacity of TVET educators, managers and...
policy advisers, across four dimensions: strategic planning, organisational development, ICT infrastructure management and teaching and learning. Adoption of this model can lead to quality improvement in programme delivery and can lead to increased access to TVET.

The FaB model seeks to increase access to TVET through efficiency gains but also by targeting learners who are currently locked out of the TVET system. These target groups include people working in the informal sector, remote and rural dwellers and people with disabilities. Resolving inequity is a central philosophy.

POLICIES

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education

The Second Consultation Meeting for the finalisation and adoption of the draft CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education was held in Trinidad & Tobago on 27 to 28 September 2012. Twenty-five participants from member states of CARICOM were represented at the meeting. The next stage is to adapt the standards to suit the policies and realities of each country.

Regional ODL Policy Framework

In collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), COL facilitated a roundtable from 19 to 22 June 2012 at the UWI campus in Barbados. Twelve participants from Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & The Grenadines attended the roundtable.

The draft Regional ODL Policy Framework for the Caribbean, which resulted from the workshop, was circulated to the non-represented stakeholders in the Caribbean, including CARICOM, for their comments.

To move forward on the adoption of the regional framework by member countries, COL met with Dr Morella Joseph, Programme Manager for Human Resource Development, CARICOM, on 8 May 2013 in Trinidad & Tobago. As per the action plan, the draft Regional ODL Policy Framework was presented in the ministerial meeting organised by CARICOM from 20 to 22 May 2013, in Jamaica. The framework was endorsed by the Ministers. A workshop held from 24 to 25 March 2014 in Trinidad & Tobago reviewed the final draft before it was proposed to the meeting of Caribbean Education Ministers. Mr David Edwards and Ms Andrea Phillip attended the workshop.

The regional ODL policy has been finalised with CARICOM, and approved by the Ministers of Education. It is awaiting formal ratification.


Two successful workshops were held in Grenada to develop an ICT in Education Policy that included an OER policy statement and a focus on teacher professional development for ICT integration. The first workshop was officially opened by the Permanent Secretary for Education, Mrs Eunice Sandy-David. It was held 12 to 13 March 2013 and focused on developing an ICT in Education Policy with an embedded OER policy. Eighteen senior-level participants from the Ministry of Education, T.A. Marrysthou Community College (TAMCC), Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN), and the University of the West Indies (UWI) attended.

The second workshop was officially opened by the Honourable Minister of Education and Human Resource Development, Anthony Boatswain. It was held 14 to 15 March 2013 and focused on the implementation of the UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for Teachers to guide teacher professional development and the integration of ICTs in education. Fourteen participants primarily from the Ministry and TAMCC attended. A draft ICT in Education Policy with OER provisions was drafted and subsequently circulated for consultation. COL is awaiting an update on the status of the policy.

Draft ODL Policy for T.A. Marrysthou Community College

Following a formal request from the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, Grenada, COL visited Grenada in September 2014 and facilitated a policy formulation workshop. A draft policy was developed and COL is working with the college to finalise the policy.
Guyana is a small state of the Commonwealth with a population of just under 800,000. It is the only Commonwealth nation on mainland South America. Enrolment rates are high for both primary and secondary education. Guyana is a long-time contributor to COL’s budget.

**AGREED PRIORITIES**

- Develop core modules for teacher education in information and communication technology (ICT)
- Develop the capacity and skills of teachers to use ICT in the teaching and learning process
- Train teachers to develop supportive online materials at various levels
- Create a support unit to provide pedagogical and technical support to teachers using ICT in delivery of curricula

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL**

- COL Review and Improvement Model (COL-RIM) implemented at the University of Guyana
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available

**COL’S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS**

**National MDG Targets Addressed by COL**
- Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications

**COL’s Work on Guyana’s MDG Targets**
- VUSSC is committed to the collaborative development of open content resources for education, training and capacity-building, and the use of ICTs to broaden access to education
- Capacity-building, materials development and policy support for sharing open educational resources (OER) and promoting open and distance learning (ODL) are underway

**QUICK NOTES**

**COL Focal Point:**
- Ms Inge Nathoo, Guyana National Commission for UNESCO

**Areas of COL’s Work in Dominica:**
- Teacher Education
- Higher Education
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
- Healthy Communities
- eLearning
GUYANA

HIGHLIGHTS

COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

PARTNERSHIPS
COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

► Ministry of Education
► Ministry of Health
► Guyana National Commission for UNESCO
► University of Guyana
► National Centre for Educational Resource Development
► Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association
► UNICEF Guyana
► Commonwealth Youth Programme
► Youth Media Guyana
► National Communications Network

CAPACITY
Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

► Regional OER workshop
► Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns
► Developing and Teaching Online Courses
► Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended Model of Skills Training
► eFacilitation Skills
► Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
► Community Programme Developer’s Certificate

MATERIALS
Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

► Research Report on Community Learning in the Caribbean
► 11 new VUSSC courses made available
► Open Textbooks Development
► Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit Testing

MODELS
A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

► Transnational Qualifications Framework
► COL Review and Improvement Model (COL-RIM)

POLICIES
A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

► CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education
► Regional ODL Policy Framework
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for Guyana was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Guyana. The following areas were identified:

► Integrating and infusing ICT into education and training
► Building a cohesive and comprehensive ICT system for proper data analysis and assessment

► Designing and implementing monitoring and evaluation strategies, which will seek to measure progress made and the impact on students’ performance
► Adopting and implementing the professional standards for Teachers
► Training teachers and lecturers in designing online courses and in using ODL effectively for program delivery
Appendix : COL’s Activities in Guyana

PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

Guyana is a member of VUSSC.

Potential Healthy Community Partnerships

COL travelled to Guyana in May 2013 to meet with the following stakeholders and discuss possible collaboration in mutual areas of interest:

► officials in the Centre for Communications Studies at the University of Guyana
► COL’s Focal Point, Ms Inge Nathoo and officials in the Ministry of Education
► Ms Jennifer Cumberbatch, Director, National Centre for Educational Resource Development (NCERD)
► officials from Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association
► officials from UNICEF Guyana
► Ms Glenyss James, Programme Manager, Commonwealth Youth Programme
► Ms Andrea Bryan, Lead, Youth Media Guyana
► Dr Wilton Ben, Director, Health Systems, Ministry of Health

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Regional Focal Points Meeting

Ms Delma Nedd represented Guyana at the meeting.

VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting

The VUSSC Interlocutors meet every three years to review developments, achievements and lessons learned. The VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting coincides with the Pan–Commonwealth Forum (PCF). PCF7 was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 6 December 2013. At this meeting, Interlocutors participated in a half-day impact evaluation workshop with COL’s impact evaluators, Dr Stephen Murgatroyd and Ms Janet Tully. Highlights of the Interlocutors Meeting included a discussion of the post-MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), current VUSSC resources, and the importance of gender in the VUSSC initiative. At the close of the meeting, the following countries expressed interest in offering VUSSC courses: Barbados, Vanuatu, Namibia, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, Maldives, Grenada and Dominica. Guyana was not represented at this meeting.

CAPACITY

Regional OER Workshop

The Regional OER workshop was held in Jamaica from 5 to 7 November 2012. This workshop followed through on the outcomes of the Paris Declaration, which was finalised at the OER World Congress in Paris in June 2012. The purpose of the workshop was to:

► develop a common understanding of the concept of OER and its potential to contribute to improving education in the Caribbean countries;
► define concrete contributions that OER can make in achieving key regional and national educational policy objectives;
► explore the policy requirements to create an enabling environment for effective use of OER and sharing of publicly financed educational resources under open licences; and
► define a roadmap for the development of effective, practical OER country policies and plans in the Caribbean.

Ms Kim Spencer of the National Centre for Educational Resource Development (NCERD), Ministry of Education, attended the workshop.

Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns

COL co-facilitated with Ms Barbara Jacobs Small of Transformative Communication Partners (TCP) St. Lucia a session on participatory approaches to disaster awareness campaigns as part of a Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) workshop for senior broadcast managers in the region. The CBA workshop on Emergency and Disaster Management for Broadcasters was held on 29 to 30 October 2012 in Trinidad & Tobago. The session introduced COL-TCP-Caribbean and COL’s work with participatory learning communication to the participants; analysed the current situation, communication programmes and disaster awareness; shared a practical tool that illustrated COL’s approach; and identified opportunities for follow-up. Thirty-seven people participated in the COL session, including attendees from across the Commonwealth Caribbean, as well as representatives of the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Suriname, United Kingdom and United States. Mr Michael Gordon of National Communications Network (NCN) attended the workshop.

Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended Model of Skills Training

From 17 to 20 February 2014, COL co-facilitated a workshop in Barbados on the Flexible and Blended model of skills training with 21 participants from 10 Caribbean countries. Equity in
access to skills training was a key discussion point. Mr Krishna Sharma of the Curriculum Council for TVET and Mr Michael Turner of Essequibo Technical Institute attended the meeting.

**eFacilitation Skills**

Dr Carolyn Walcott and Ms. Rhonda Hamilton were trained in e-facilitation skills (September 2013) as part of regional capacity-building efforts in relation to the delivery of the Community Learning Programme Developer’s Certificate in 2014. Dr Walcott was subsequently engaged as an apprentice e-facilitator for the “C4D: Why. How. Now.” e-course run in February to March 2014, and as a mentor in Courses 2-4.

**VUSSC Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop**

On 24 to 25 March 2014, VUSSC Interlocutors of the Caribbean region participated in a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) workshop held in Trinidad & Tobago, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Development, to evaluate the VUSSC M&E plan, update the VUSSC logic model and explore tools used for the collection and analysis of data.

**Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate**

Four regional distance training and mentoring courses have been developed and delivered through a partnership between COL and its Healthy Communities partners as part of the Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate, which will result in new CLP design and delivery.

Two editions of the 5-week “Communication for Development (C4D): Why. How. Now.” e-course were run. In October to November 2013, two participants (both women) from Guyana were trained, both from the University of Guyana. In February to March 2014, 17 participants (11 women and six men) from various government departments and civil society organisations were trained.

The 10-week “Research for Planning” e-course was run in 2014. In April to June 2014, seven participants (five women) from Guyana were engaged in the training and mentoring course, resulting in comprehensive plans for CLPs based on formative research.

The 5-week “Communication Channels and Media Forms” e-course was run in 2014. In August 2014, participants (all women) from Guyana received training, resulting in a completed CLP plan.

The 6-week “Participatory Learning Design” (blended) e-course was run in 2014. In September to October 2014, 12 participants (eight women and four men) from Guyana received training in a special face-to-face training on participatory learning design.

The 6-week “Scriptwriting and Episode Production” (blended) e-course is being run in 2014/2015.

The 5-week “Sustainability and Sponsorship” e-course is being run in 2015.

**MATERIALS**

**Research Report on Community Learning in the Eastern Caribbean**

A study into the availability, quality and usage of non-formal health/development educational opportunities, specifically ODL and communication for development programmes in Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean, was conducted by Transformative Communication Partners Caribbean between September and December 2012, with the results presented in 2013.

**New VUSSC Courses**

During 2013–2014, 11 VUSSC courses were completed including: Master’s in Educational Leadership, Bachelor’s in Business and Entrepreneurship, Diploma in Agriculture, Linux for IT Managers, Facilitating Online Instruction, and Sustainable Tourism. Courses are available to all VUSSC member states on the VUSSC website. Approximately 49,000 people have been reached or trained, including senior officials, educators and over 1,300 learners enrolled in VUSSC-developed courses and programmes.

**VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education**

Senior officials of the small states identified a need to develop a teacher education programme, especially at the postgraduate level, to help address the acute shortage of teachers in most of the small states and the lack of training programmes in most teacher training institutions. COL therefore facilitated a workshop, in collaboration with the National University of Samoa, to develop a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). It ran from 17 June to 3 July 2013 in Samoa, with 28 participants from 14 countries. Much of the course was developed using OER.

**Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism**

In collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), a workshop to review the Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism was held in Barbados from 17 to 20 March 2014. The VUSSC Education Specialist participated and co-facilitated the workshop to review and update the two courses. Sixteen institutions will be implementing the revised curriculum. Ms Camille Robertson of the University of Guyana participated in the workshop.
Open Textbooks Development

A regional Open Textbooks Forum was held in Antigua & Barbuda, 19 to 20 June 2013, which resulted in an agreement to develop a concept paper on the development of open textbooks for the Eastern Caribbean school curriculum. The concept paper was presented to the OECS Education Ministers’ meeting in Antigua & Barbuda in September 2013. A total of 12 participants from the six Commonwealth members of the OECS, plus a representative of the OECS and Ms Kim Spencer of the Ministry of Education attended the forum.

Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit

A regional workshop to review the draft toolkit on gender mainstreaming for teacher education institutions and get feedback on how to make it useful for teacher education institutions in the Caribbean region was held from 20 to 21 March 2014 in Kingston, Jamaica. Participants from Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago attended.

MODELS

Transnational Qualifications Framework

The Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF) was used as a reference point to finalise the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Qualifications Framework, which was completed and referenced against the TQF. This means that all VUSSC courses offered by institutions in the Caribbean will be registered on the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised at both the regional and international levels.

COL Review and Improvement (COL-RIM) Model

The evaluation of the COL-RIM implementation in the University of Guyana (UG) was completed by COL in August 2014. A Quality Assurance workshop was conducted for the UG team, resulting in 21 staff being trained.

POLICIES

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education

The Second Consultation Meeting for the finalisation and adoption of the draft CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education was held in Trinidad & Tobago on 27 to 28 September 2012. Twenty-five participants from member states of CARICOM were represented at the meeting. The next stage is to adapt the standards to suit the policies and realities of each country.

Regional ODL Policy Framework

In collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), COL facilitated a roundtable from 19 to 22 June 2012 at the UWI campus in Barbados. Twelve participants from Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & The Grenadines attended the roundtable.

The draft Regional ODL Policy Framework for the Caribbean, which resulted from the workshop, was circulated to the non-represented stakeholders in the Caribbean, including CARICOM, for their comments.

To move forward on the adoption of the regional framework by member countries, COL met with Dr Morella Joseph, Programme Manager for Human Resource Development, CARICOM, on 8 May 2013 in Trinidad & Tobago. As per the action plan, the draft Regional ODL Policy Framework was presented in the ministerial meeting organised by CARICOM from 20 to 22 May 2013, in Jamaica. The framework was endorsed by the Ministers. A workshop held from 24 to 25 March 2014 in Trinidad & Tobago reviewed the final draft before it was proposed to the meeting of Caribbean Education Ministers.

The regional ODL policy has been finalised with CARICOM, and approved by the Ministers of Education. It is awaiting formal ratification.
Jamaica is the most populated Caribbean Commonwealth nation, with about 2.7 million people. Literacy rates and enrolment ratios for primary and secondary education are high. Jamaica is a regular contributor to COL’s budget.

**AGREED PRIORITIES**

- Assist in converting courses from face-to-face to ODL/mixed-mode and prepare modules to train college lecturers in their delivery and assessment
- Build capacity for teachers’ college staff through short courses at the Bachelor’s level
- Build capacity for teachers to use information and communication technology (ICT) in teaching and learning
- Establish a vessel monitoring system for small-scale fishers in Jamaica
- Establish, strengthen and sustain fisher organisations

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL**

- Support to UTech has led to more eLearning courses and online learners
- Eight open educational resources (OER) modules for Teacher Education developed
- Six Community Learning Programmes (CLPs) developed (on domestic violence, youth sexuality, young women’s employment and drought), with 4 delivered in 2013–2014
- Lifelong Learning for Farmers model scaled up
- Online learning started in 23 HEART Trust/NTA institutions
- Flexible learning in TVET policy drafted

**QUICK NOTES**

**COL Focal Point:**
- Dr Phylicia Marshall, Tertiary Unit, Ministry of Education

**Notable Mention:**
- The Honourable Burchell Whiteman, OJ, the former High Commissioner to UK, was Chair of the COL Board of Governors from 2008 to 2014

**Areas of COL’s Work in Jamaica:**
- Teacher Education
- Higher Education
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
- Healthy Communities
- eLearning

**COL’S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS**

**National MDG Targets Addressed by COL**
- Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

**COL’s Work on Jamaica’s MDG Targets**
- Capacity-building, materials development and policy support for sharing OER and promoting open and distance learning (ODL) are underway
- The Lifelong Learning for Farmers model aims to empower women and improve the livelihoods and food security of participants
- CLPs addressing violence against women and women’s employment also aim to empower women and promote gender equity
COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

**PARTNERSHIPS**
COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
- University of the West Indies
- HEART Trust/National Training Authority
- The Jamaica Constabulary Force
- Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)
- Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC)
- University of Technology (UTech)
- Transformative Communications Partners- Caribbean
- UNESCO-Kingston Cluster Office
- University Council of Jamaica
- Jamaica Board for Teacher Education
- University College of the Caribbean
- Christina Potato Growers Cooperative Association (CPCGA)
- Green Town Producer and Marketing Organization (PMO)
- Miles Gully PMO
- Frazer-Cascade PMO
- Jamaica Foundation for Lifelong Learning
- Roots FM
- Jet FM
- Mongrel Media

**CAPACITY**
Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

- Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns
- Regional OER workshop
- Ongoing Capacity-Building at the Faculty of Education and Liberal Studies (FELS), UTech
- Cost and Financing for Open Schools
- eLearning Skills Training
- Blended Online Teaching and Learning Strategies
- Quality Assurance and Quality and Access in Flexible Learning
- Course Design for Flexible Learning
- Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended Model of Skills Training
- Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
- Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate

**MATERIALS**
Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

- Research Report on Community Learning in the Eastern Caribbean
- Community Learning Programme Developer’s Certificate materials
- OER Modules for Teacher Education Curriculum
- Open Textbooks Development
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit
- The Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA programmes
- Distance Diploma in Technical and Vocational Education
- Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration (CCTI) Programme
POLICIES
A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

► Regional ODL Policy Framework
► CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education

OTHER
► Regional ODL Policy Framework
► Speeches and presentations
► Jamaican experts engaged as professional resources

LOOKING FORWARD: 2015–2021
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for Jamaica was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Jamaica. The following areas were identified:

► Development of short courses to be offered through Moodle to enhance the capacity of teachers’ college staff to improve the content at the Bachelor’s level

► Development of an institutional change management model and business planning framework
► Advanced training of faculty members in distance learning, especially in the areas of OERs, MOOCs, learner support systems and service level agreements
► Development of the capacity of managers to use ICT to evaluate the impact of projects/initiatives
► Provision of training for people to write and get funding for projects, and to effectively manage those funds

MODELS
A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

► Lifelong Learning for Farmers model
► Healthy Communities model
► Transnational Qualifications Framework
► Flexible and Blended TVET model
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Jamaica

PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

**Jamaica** is a member of VUSSC.

**Ministry of Education: Boys Underachievement**

COL met with **Ms Elaine Foster-Allen**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education in Jamaica, to discuss a possible intervention to address boys’ underachievement in Jamaica.

**University of the West Indies: Repurposing of Youth Work Programme into OER**

The Commonwealth Secretariat, the Open Campus of the **University of the West Indies (UWI)** and COL participated in a meeting to discuss the possibility of repurposing UWI’s diploma and degree in Youth Work into open educational resources (OER), as well as establishing a partnership between the three organisations and, in the process, continuing to advance the Youth Work Programme in the Commonwealth.

**INVEST Community Learning Network**

COL provides an online community of practice to support **INVEST – Innovation in Vocational Education and Skills Training** – for managers, teachers and policy-makers in technical and vocational education and training (TVET). The network currently has more than 1,182 members engaged in informal learning and collaboration, 8 of whom are from **UTech** and 28 from **HEART**.

**HEART Trust/National Training Authority: Technical and Vocational Skills Development**

A partnership is being established between **Human Employment and Resource Training Trust (HEART)**, National Training Agency Network (NTA) and COL TVSD. The aim is to introduce more flexible approaches to TVET provision throughout the government system in Jamaica. COL met with HEART senior administrators in February 2014 to discuss the partnership and how strategic objectives to increase access could be achieved through collaboration. A session on flexible learning in TVET was facilitated. Further support to HEART will continue with a range of capacity-building activities.

**Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC): Community Radio**

On 1 May 2013, COL met with officials from CARIMAC, University of the West Indies, who agreed to draft a new Memorandum of Understanding with COL streamlined to focus on the key objectives of: research and publication; training; and course development.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

**7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)**

COL sponsored the following people to the forum: **Dr Jeanette Bartley-Bryan** of the University of Technology, **Ms Rosamond Brown** of Transformative Communications Partners – Caribbean, **Ms Ivy Gordon** of Jeffrey Town Farmers’ Association, and **Dr Phylicia Marshall** of the Ministry of Education. **The Hon Burchell Whiteman** was also present and participated actively in the conference.

**Regional Stakeholders Meeting**

The **Jamaica Constabulary Force** and the **Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)** attended the meeting.

**Regional Focal Points Meeting**

**Dr Phylicia Marshall**, Assistant Chief Education Officer-Tertiary Unit of the Ministry of Education, represented Jamaica at the meeting.

**Meeting with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education**

**The Hon Burchell Whiteman** and Professor Asha Kanwar, CEO and President of COL, met with **Rev the Hon Ronald Thwaites**, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, at the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ) conference on 11 March 2014.

**VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting**

The VUSSC Interlocutors meet every three years to review developments, achievements and lessons learned. The VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting coincides with the Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF). PCF7 was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 6 December 2013. At this meeting, Interlocutors participated in a half-day impact evaluation workshop with COL’s impact evaluators, **Dr Stephen Murgatroyd** and **Ms Janet Tully**. Highlights of the Interlocutors Meeting included a discussion of the post-MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), current VUSSC resources, and the importance of gender in the VUSSC initiative. At the close of the meeting, the following countries expressed interest in offering VUSSC courses: Barbados, Vanuatu, Namibia, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, Maldives, Grenada and Dominica. **Dr Phylicia Marshall** of the Ministry of Education represented Jamaica at this meeting.

**Regional Workshop on Flexible and Blended TVET**

From 17 to 20 February 2014, COL co-facilitated a workshop in Barbados on the Flexible and Blended model of skills training with 21 participants from 10 Caribbean countries. This is a collaboration between COL and members of the Caribbean.
Association of National Training Agencies (CANTA). Equity in access to skills training was a key discussion point. Mr Michael Campbell and Ms Shorna Myrie both of HEART attended the meeting.

CAPACITY

Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns

COL co-facilitated with Ms Barbara Jacobs Small of Transformative Communication Partners (TCP) St. Lucia a session on participatory approaches to disaster awareness campaigns as part of a Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) workshop for senior broadcast managers in the region. The CBA workshop on Emergency and Disaster Management for Broadcasters was held on 29 to 30 October 2012 in Trinidad & Tobago. The session introduced COL-TCP-Caribbean and COL’s work with participatory learning communication to the participants; analysed the current situation, communication programmes and disaster awareness; shared a practical tool that illustrated COL’s approach; and identified opportunities for follow-up. Thirty-seven people participated in the COL session, including attendees from across the Commonwealth Caribbean, as well as representatives of the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Suriname, United Kingdom and United States. Ms Naene Newsome, ODPEM, and Ms Indi Mclymont-Lafayette, Panos Caribbean, attended the workshop.

Regional OER Workshop

The Regional OER workshop was held in Jamaica from 5 to 7 November 2012. This workshop followed through on the outcomes of the Paris Declaration, which was finalised at the OER World Congress in Paris in June 2012. The purpose of the workshop was to:

► develop a common understanding of the concept of OER and its potential to contribute to improving education in the Caribbean countries;
► define concrete contributions that OER can make in achieving key regional and national educational policy objectives;
► explore the policy requirements to create an enabling environment for effective use of OER and sharing of publicly financed educational resources under open licences; and
► define a roadmap for the development of effective, practical OER country policies and plans in the Caribbean.

Attending the workshop were Ms Anita Thomas-James, Ms Carmel Roofe-Brown, Ms Sheena Johnson-Brown, Dr Jeannette Bartlett-Bryan of the University of Technology, Dr Hara Padhy of UNESCO-Kingston Cluster Office, Dr Yvonne Marshall of the University Council of Jamaica and Dr Canute Thompson of the Ministry of Education. The Chair of COL Board of Governors at the time, the Hon Burchell Whiteman of Jamaica, welcomed the delegates to the workshop. Several presentations were made during the workshop, including Dr Padhy’s paper titled “The Role of OER in Achieving Educational Policy Objectives in The Caribbean.”

Ongoing Capacity Building at the Faculty of Education and Liberal Studies (FELS), UTech

Support for capacity-building at Faculty of Education and Liberal Studies (FELS) at UTech continues. COL consultant Solvig Norman facilitated a one-week workshop with 20 FELS teaching staff in blended online learning in May 2013. The FELS Dean reports that the training has contributed to the following outcomes:

► More FELS lecturers are now offering elearning courses.
► All education modules are now online and education courses are delivered online through two outreach centres.
► All Master’s programmes now have some online courses.
► A fully online Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) for Monserrat has been developed and will start in April 2014, and there are plans to offer it to other countries.
► FELS staff have been cascading training to other teaching staff at UTech.

Cost and Financing for Open Schools

To ensure sustainable open schools that will increase access to learning opportunities, it is important that open schools adopt the correct systems and policies. Key among these is a cost and financing system. Dr Phylicia Marshall attended a cost and financing workshop in Barbados from 12 to 17 August 2013.

eLearning Skills Training

In February 2014, COL consultant Sandy Hirtz facilitated an eLearning skills training workshop for 24 teachers from HEART institutions. As a result, there are a range of pilot courses being planned and developed. In addition, workshop participants have been cascading training within their institutions and there are plans to upgrade all HEART Moodle platforms.

Blended Online Teaching and Learning Strategies

COL Consultant, Sandy Hirtz, facilitated a workshop in May 2014 to strengthen capacity in blended online teaching and learning strategies of staff in the Faculty of Education and Liberal Studies (FELS) in the University of Technology, Jamaica. Ms Hirtz was also engaged to support HEART Trust/ National Training Authority (NTA) in Jamaica to strengthen capacity in blended online teaching and learning strategies.
Quality Assurance and Quality and Access in Flexible Learning

George Herd, COL Consultant from the UK, facilitated a workshop for 37 TVET staff in Jamaica to explore how HEART/NTA institutions can collaborate and build capacity in quality assurance. Another workshop was facilitated for 32 managers and directors in the HEART system to build capacity in addressing access and quality objectives in flexible learning.

Course Design for Flexile Learning

Mr Brian Sayer, COL Consultant from the UK, facilitated a five-day workshop on course design for flexible learning for 25 instructors and programme staff in HEART/NTA in Jamaica. The workshop supported the development of flexible learning programmes, aimed at assisting staff in cascading their new knowledge about course design to other instructors within their institutions and units. Mr Sayer was also engaged to explore the potential for collaboration between HEART/NTA and COL to widen access to quality technical and vocational skills training.

VUSSC Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop

On 24 to 25 March 2014, VUSSC Interlocutors of the Caribbean region participated in a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) workshop held in Trinidad & Tobago, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Development, to evaluate the VUSSC M&E plan, update the VUSSC logic model and explore tools used for the collection and analysis of data. Dr Phylicia Marshall of the Ministry of Education represented Jamaica at this meeting.

Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate

Two series of regional distance training and mentoring courses have been developed and delivered through a partnership between COL and its Healthy Communities partners (including the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication [CARIMAC] and Transformative Communication Partners [TCP] Caribbean) as part of the CLP Developer’s Certificate, which will result in new CLP design and delivery.

The first series was a 9-month blended training and mentoring programme (Caribbean regional), which ran from January to September 2013. At it, 20 representatives of 13 organisations in Jamaica were trained and mentored in the planning, design and delivery of CLP. Two face-to-face workshops were held in 2013 as part of the process, one on participatory learning design and the other on programme creation.

The second series comprised the following courses: two editions of the 5-week “Communication for Development (C4D): Why. How. Now.” e-course were run in 2013–2014. In October to November 2013, three participants (all women) from Jamaica were trained, one from the public sector and two from civil society. In February to March 2014, 33 participants (24 women and 9 men) from various government departments and civil society organisations in Jamaica were involved in the training.

In the 10-week “Research for Planning” e-course that ran from April to June 2014, 17 participants (11 women and six men) from Jamaica were engaged in the training and mentoring course, resulting in comprehensive plans for CLPs based on formative research.

In the 5-week “Communication Channels and Media Forms” e-course that ran in August 2014, nine participants (six women and three men) from Jamaica received training, resulting in completed CLP plans.

In the 6-week “Participatory Learning Design” (blended) e-course that ran from September to October 2014, eight participants (six women and two men) from Jamaica received training, which will result in a completed CLP design document.

In the 6-week “Scriptwriting and Episode Production” (blended) e-course is being run in 2014–2015.

In the 5-week “Sustainability and Sponsorship” e-course is being run in 2015.

MATERIALS

Research Report on Community Learning in the Eastern Caribbean

A study into the availability, quality and usage of non-formal health/development educational opportunities, specifically ODL and communication for development programmes in Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean, was conducted by Transformative Communication Partners Caribbean between September and December 2012, with the results presented in 2013.

Community Learning Programme Developer’s Certificate Materials

CARIMAC and Transformative Communication Partners Caribbean have been leaders in the development of the CLP Developer’s Certificate, a Pan-Commonwealth distance training and mentoring programme. The suite of e-courses that make up the certificate was mapped out at a materials development workshop, held 28 April to 5 May 2013 in Kingston, Jamaica. Combining skills training and e-course development, the workshop resulted in a framework for the 9-month certificate to be delivered in distance mode with some blended elements. Participating in the workshop were: Ms Rosamond Brown, Transformative Communication Partners (Jamaica); Monica
James, Maraa (India); Busisiwe Ngcebetsha, Media and Training Centre for Health (South Africa); Mr Patrick Prendergast, Transformative Communication Partners (Jamaica); and Charles Simbi, Centre for Development Communication (Malawi).

Ms Rosamond Brown and Ms Michelle Desgouttes from Transformative Communication Partners were trained in e-facilitation (October 2012) and Moodle design skills (May to August 2013), resulting in two new e-workshops: an 11- and a 6-week course titled Research for Planning and Sustaining Community Learning Programmes, respectively. Both courses are in the CLP Developer’s Certificate.

OER Modules for Teacher Education Curriculum

A workshop on integrating OER into the teacher education curriculum was organised in collaboration with the Jamaica Board for Teacher Education from 8 to 12 April 2013 and 20 teacher-educators were trained. The workshop was part of the process of disseminating instructional design and OER knowledge and skills for the development of online materials.

COL also held a follow-up workshop on integrating OER into the teacher education curriculum from 17 to 20 June 2014, again in collaboration with the Jamaica Board for Teacher Education. As a result, 10 modules were developed and finalised.

In June 2014, twenty-seven teacher educators were trained in the conversion of print-based courses to online courses. An additional 10 modules have been converted from print to online and a total of 522 students are enrolled in the B.Ed programme.

Open Textbooks Development

A regional Open Textbooks Forum was held in Antigua & Barbuda, 19 to 20 June 2013, which resulted in an agreement to develop a concept paper on the development of open textbooks for the Eastern Caribbean school curriculum. The concept paper was presented to the OECS Education Ministers’ meeting in Antigua & Barbuda in September 2013. A total of 12 participants from the six Commonwealth members of the OECS, plus a representative of the OECS and a representative from Guyana, participated.

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VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education

Senior officials of the small states identified a need to develop a teacher education programme, especially at the postgraduate level, to help address the acute shortage of teachers in most of the small states and the lack of training programmes in most teacher training institutions. COL therefore facilitated a workshop, in collaboration with the National University of Samoa, to develop a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). It ran from 17 June to 3 July 2013 in Samoa, with 28 participants from 14 countries. Much of the course was developed using OER.

Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism

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Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit

A regional workshop to review the draft toolkit on gender mainstreaming for teacher education institutions and get feedback on how to make it useful for teacher education institutions in the Caribbean region was held from 20 to 21 March 2014 in Kingston, Jamaica.

Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA Programmes

The Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA programmes have been offered by the University College of the Caribbean in Jamaica since 2007. Initially launched in 2002, the programmes were completely updated in 2013, with 12 courses revised and 10 courses rewritten. One new elective on Business Ethics was added, taking the total number of courses available to 23. 11 partner institutions are currently offering the CEMBA/CEMPA programme. To date, 24,299 students have enrolled, 11,515 of whom have graduated. For the current triennium, 4,961 have been reported to enrol and thus far 3,814 have graduated. COL continues to receive updates on enrolment and graduation figures from partner institutions.

CommUniversity Programme in Vocational Literacy and Skills Training for Youth

COL is partnering with the University of Technology (UTech) through the Centre for ODL to develop a CommUniversity programme to provide vocational literacy and skills training for
young people in three marginalised communities in Kingston. This programme has a number of stakeholders, including Papine Development Area Council, Social Development Commission, Jamaica Foundation for Lifelong Learning, HEART Trust, and Ministry of Education TVET Unit. This programme is currently being re-conceptualised to increase the involvement of UTech students as part of the community service component of their programmes.

**Distance Diploma in Technical and Vocational Education**

Over the years, COL and UTech have collaborated on the development of a Diploma in Technical and Vocational Education by distance. This was successfully delivered by UTech in different Caribbean countries. With COL support, the materials have now been developed by the Faculty of Education and Liberal Studies (FELS) for eLearning delivery at the Associate Degree level. COL and UTech are collaborating to make the diploma materials available as an OER under a Creative Commons Licence.

**Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration (CCTI) Programme**

COL supported the development of a programme proposal to the University of the West Indies (UWI) for accreditation of the CCTI. The UWI approved the delivery of the CCTI by the UWI Open Campus as an undergraduate certificate. The VUSSC Education Specialist participated and co-facilitated the workshop to review and update the two courses. Sixteen institutions will be implementing the revised curriculum.

**MODELS**

**Lifelong Learning for Farmers**

COL, in consultation with Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), Christina Potato Growers Cooperative Association (CPGCA) and UWI, developed a plan of action for 2013–2014. The Hon Roger Clarke, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, met the representatives of COL and RADA and assured his support of L3F in Jamaica. In Jamaica, three farmers’ groups and 20 extension officers participated in three workshops to evolve a plan of action for 2013–2014 based on the experiences of 2012–2013.

Thirty extension officers and 20 representatives of Christina Potato Growers Association and Producer and Marketing Organizations (PMOs) were trained in different aspects of L3F. A strategy has been evolved in consultation with RADA to focus on the cooperative association and PMOs. A plan of action for 2013–2014 based on the experiences of 2012–2013 has evolved.

A study was conducted by the University of West Indies to identify strategies for strengthening the Christiana Potato Growers Association as a social enterprise representing nearly 4,000 farmers. Similarly, studies were conducted to strengthen two PMOs (Green Town PMO and Miles Gully PMO) as self-sustaining institutions integrating microfinance and gender. Both studies have given roadmaps for using various technologies and distance learning in building the capacities of the farmers.

Mr Hartnell Campbell, Ms Roslyn Jackson, Ms Marina Young and Mr Brad Clarke, all of RADA, visited COL in Vancouver, Canada, from 16 to 21 June 2014 to plan activities for 2014–2015 and finalise their results-based management and budget for implementing L3F in Jamaica. Green Town PMO, Miles Gully PMO and Frazer-Cascade PMO developed L3F plans for 2014–2015 in consultation with their communities.

A workshop was held to facilitate RADA, Jamaica, Christiana Potato Growers Cooperative Association (CPGCA), Jamaica, Miles Gully Producer and Marketing Organization (MGPMO) and Green Town Producer and Marketing Organization (GTPMO) in understanding the elements of gender in agricultural extension and enable them to develop action plans for Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) activities in Jamaica, which are gender sensitive and gender responsive. The workshop with RADA took place on 18 March 2014 and the workshop with CPGCA, MGPMO and GTPMO took place on 19 March 2014 in Kingston.

**Healthy Communities**

Six CLPs were designed as a result of training and mentoring, including two series on domestic violence, two on youth sexuality, and one each on young women’s employment and coping with drought. Partners include Jamaica Constabulary Force, Jamaica Foundation for Lifelong Learning, Roots FM, Jet FM and Jeffrey Town Farmers Association. Two CLPs on domestic violence (22 episodes), one on drought management (6 episodes) and one on youth sexuality (3 episodes) were delivered in 2013–2014.

In the context of community learning capacity and programme development, COL engaged Mr Mervin Jarman of Mongrel Media to develop a mobile-phone-based solution for Jamaican CLP Developers to use in interacting with and monitoring participation in learning activities. The solution has been deployed in Jeffrey Town, Saint Mary, Kingston and Portmore.

Research concerning CLP outcomes in Jeffrey Town and Saint Mary (specifically learning and social and behaviour change) was initiated in June 2013 with comparative results from follow-up research in 2014.
Transnational Qualifications Framework

The Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF) was used as a reference point to finalise the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Qualifications Framework, which was completed and referenced against the TQF. This means that all VUSSC courses offered by institutions in the Caribbean will be registered on the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised at both the regional and international levels.

Flexible and Blended Model of TVET

The FaB model of flexible skills development supports the integration of technology to help TVET systems become more relevant and responsive. COL strengthens the capacity of TVET educators, managers and policy advisers, across four dimensions: strategic planning, organisational development, ICT infrastructure management and teaching and learning. Adoption of this model can lead to quality improvement in programme delivery and can lead to increased access to TVET.

The FaB model seeks to increase access to TVET through efficiency gains but also by targeting learners who are currently locked out of the TVET system. These target groups include people working in the informal sector, remote and rural dwellers and people with disabilities. Resolving inequity is a central philosophy.

POLICIES

Regional ODL Policy Framework

In collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), COL facilitated a roundtable from 19 to 22 June 2012 at the UWI campus in Barbados. Twelve participants from Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & The Grenadines attended the roundtable.

The draft Regional ODL Policy Framework for the Caribbean, which resulted from the workshop, was circulated to the non-represented stakeholders in the Caribbean, including CARICOM, for their comments.

To move forward on the adoption of the regional framework by member countries, COL met with Dr Morella Joseph, Programme Manager for Human Resource Development, CARICOM, on 8 May 2013 in Trinidad & Tobago. As per the action plan, the draft Regional ODL Policy Framework was presented in the ministerial meeting organised by CARICOM from 20 to 22 May 2013, in Jamaica. The framework was endorsed by the Ministers. A workshop held from 24 to 25 March 2014 in Trinidad & Tobago reviewed the final draft before it was proposed to the meeting of Caribbean Education Ministers. Ms Nadine Simms attended the workshop.

The regional ODL policy has been finalised with CARICOM, and approved by the Ministers of Education. It is awaiting formal ratification.

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education

The Second Consultation Meeting for the finalisation and adoption of the draft CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education was held in Trinidad & Tobago on 27 to 28 September 2012. Twenty-five participants from member states of CARICOM were represented at the meeting. The next stage is to adapt the standards to suit the policies and realities of each country.

National Policy on Flexible Learning in TVET.

Through online engagement on the Community Learning Network, COL supported HEART Trust/NTA to develop a national policy on Flexible Learning in TVET.

OTHER

Speeches and Presentations

The President and CEO of COL gave the fifth Dennis Irvine Lecture organised by the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ). She also gave a speech at the UCJ Awards function held on 11 March 2014.

Jamaican Experts Engaged as Professional Resources

Ms Rosamond Brown and Ms Michelle Desgouttes of Transformative Communication Partners Caribbean were engaged by COL as e-facilitators and coordinators for the “C4D: Why. How. Now.” course run in 2013 and 2014. Ms Brown was the e-facilitator and course coordinator for the Research for Planning e-course, run April to June 2014. Ms Brown also co-facilitated a workshop in St. Lucia on Communication for Development in November 2012 and is a member of the CLP Developer’s Certificate course team. Mr Patrick Prendergast, CARIMAC and Transformative Communication Partners, co-facilitated a workshop on CLP design and delivery in St. Lucia in June 2013 and facilitated a CLP programme production workshop in collaboration with the Prisons Department of Trinidad & Tobago in June 2013.
## ST. KITTS & NEVIS

### CONTEXT
The islands of St. Kitts & Nevis form a small state of the Commonwealth. It has a largely rural population of about 54,000. St. Kitts & Nevis continues to benefit from its involvement in key COL activities, including the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) and regional training initiatives. It contributes regularly to COL’s budget.

### AGREED PRIORITIES
- Provide Special Education training for teachers
- Provide training of graduate teachers in pedagogy
- Promote communication for behaviour change in areas such as Agriculture, Health and Education
- Offer Training of Trainers
- Provide leadership development
- Develop skills in creating and publishing open and distance learning (ODL) content online for training purposes

### COL’S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS

**National MDG Targets Addressed by COL**
- Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications

**COL’s Work on St. Kitts & Nevis’ MDG Targets**
- VUSSC is committed to the collaborative development of open content resources for education, training and capacity-building, and the use of ICTs to broaden access to education
- Capacity-building, materials development and policy support for sharing OER and promoting ODL are underway

### QUICK NOTES

**COL Focal Point:**
- Mr Daryll Lloyd, Ministry of Education

**Areas of COL’s Work in St. Kitts & Nevis:**
- Open Schooling
- Teacher Education
- Higher Education
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
- Healthy Communities
- eLearning

### OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- Policy on Information and communications technology (ICT) in education/open educational resources (OER) drafted and awaiting approval
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for St. Kitts & Nevis was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of St. Kitts & Nevis. The following areas were identified:

- Development of learning resources and teacher training for single-sex schools
- Integration of technology in instruction
- Development of differentiated instruction for the pre-school level and in the agricultural sector
- Writing policy on food and nutrition security
- Support for agricultural development

COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

**PARTNERSHIPS**
COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

- Ministry of Education
- Ziz Broadcasting Corporation
- Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College
- Advanced Vocational Education Centre

**CAPACITY**
Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

- Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns
- Regional OER workshop
- Cost and Financing workshop
- Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended Model of Skills Training
- Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC

**MATERIALS**
Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

- Research Report on Community Learning in the Eastern Caribbean
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- Open Textbooks Development

**MODELS**
A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

- Transnational Qualifications Framework
- Flexible and Blended TVET

**POLICIES**
A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

- CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education
- ICT in Education/OER Policy
- Regional ODL Policy Framework
Appendix: COL's Activities in St. Kitts & Nevis

PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

St. Kitts & Nevis is a member of VUSSC.

TVET (Training and Vocational Education and Training) Partnerships

COL Education Specialist–TVSD met with members of the Ministry of Education, Youth Sports and Culture in St. Kitts & Nevis in February 2015 to discuss new models of TVET. This included a meeting with the new Minister, the Hon Shawn Richards, the Permanent Secretary, and members of the TVET Council Secretariat.

COL also met with members of the Ministry of Education in Nevis, including the Permanent Secretary and senior education officers, to discuss the COL programme and how it might benefit Nevis, particularly in TVET delivery.

Institutional visits were made to the Advance Vocational Education Centre and Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College to discuss with senior managers the potential for COL's flexible model of TVET to be integrated into these institutions.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Regional Focal Points Meeting

Mr Daryll Lloyd of the Ministry of Education attended the meeting.

VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting

The VUSSC Interlocutors meet every three years to review developments, achievements and lessons learned. The VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting coincides with the Pan–Commonwealth Forum (PCF). PCF7 was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 6 December 2013. At this meeting, Interlocutors participated in a half-day impact evaluation workshop with COL's impact evaluators, Dr Stephen Murgatroyd and Ms Janet Tully. Highlights of the Interlocutors Meeting included a discussion of the post-MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), current VUSSC resources, and the importance of gender in the VUSSC initiative. At the close of the meeting, the following countries expressed interest in offering VUSSC courses: Barbados, Vanuatu, Namibia, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, Maldives, Grenada and Dominica.

CAPACITY

Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns

COL co-facilitated with Ms Barbara Jacobs Small of Transformative Communication Partners (TCP) St. Lucia a session on participatory approaches to disaster awareness campaigns as part of a Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) workshop for senior broadcast managers in the region. The CBA workshop on Emergency and Disaster Management for Broadcasters was held on 29 to 30 October 2012 in Trinidad & Tobago. The session introduced COL-TCP-Caribbean and COL's work with participatory learning communication to the participants; analysed the current situation, communication programmes and disaster awareness; shared a practical tool that illustrated COL's approach; and identified opportunities for follow-up. Thirty-seven people participated in the COL session, including attendees from across the Commonwealth Caribbean, as well as representatives of the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Suriname, United Kingdom and United States. Mr Viere Galloway of Ziz Broadcasting Corporation attended the workshop.

Regional OER Workshop

The Regional OER workshop was held in Jamaica from 5 to 7 November 2012. This workshop followed through on the outcomes of the Paris Declaration, which was finalised at the OER World Congress in Paris in June 2012. The purpose of the workshop was to:

► develop a common understanding of the concept of OER and its potential to contribute to improving education in the Caribbean countries;
► define concrete contributions that OER can make in achieving key regional and national educational policy objectives;
► explore the policy requirements to create an enabling environment for effective use of OER and sharing of publicly financed educational resources under open licences; and
► define a roadmap for the development of effective, practical OER country policies and plans in the Caribbean.

Mr Quinton Morton of the Ministry of Education attended the workshop.

Cost and Financing Workshop

To ensure sustainable open schools that will increase access to learning opportunities, it is important that open schools adopt the correct systems and policies. Key among these is a cost and financing system. Mr Daryll Lloyd attended a cost and financing workshop in Barbados from 12 to 17 August 2013.
Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended TVET

From 17 to 20 February 2014, COL co-facilitated a workshop in Barbados on the Flexible and Blended model of skills training with 21 participants from 10 Caribbean countries. This is a collaboration between COL and members of the Caribbean Association of National Training Agencies (CANTA). Equity in access to skills training was a key discussion point along with OERs and collaborative course development.

Mr Clyde V. Christopher of St. Kitts & Nevis TVET Secretariat and Mr Orette Smith, TVET Coordinator from Nevis Ministry of Education, attended the meeting.

VUSSC Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop

On 24 to 25 March 2014, VUSSC Interlocutors of the Caribbean region participated in a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) workshop held in Trinidad & Tobago, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Development, to evaluate the VUSSC M&E plan, update the VUSSC logic model and explore tools used for the collection and analysis of data.

MATERIALS

Research Report on Community Learning in the Eastern Caribbean

A study into the availability, quality and usage of non-formal health/development educational opportunities, specifically ODL and communication for development programmes in Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean, was conducted by Transformative Communication Partners Caribbean between September and December 2012, with the results presented in 2013.

New VUSSC Courses

During 2013–2014, 11 VUSSC courses were completed: Master’s in Educational Leadership, Bachelor’s in Business and Entrepreneurship, Diploma in Agriculture, Linux for IT Managers, Facilitating Online Instruction, and Sustainable Tourism. Courses are available to all VUSSC member states on the VUSSC website. Approximately 49,000 people have been reached or trained, including senior officials, educators and over 1,300 learners enrolled in VUSSC-developed courses and programmes.

VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education

Senior officials of the small states identified a need to develop a teacher education programme, especially at the postgraduate level, to help address the acute shortage of teachers in most of the small states and the lack of training programmes in most teacher training institutions. COL therefore facilitated a workshop, in collaboration with the National University of Samoa, to develop a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). It ran from 17 June to 3 July 2013 in Samoa, with 28 participants from 14 countries. Much of the course was developed using OER.

Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism

In collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), a workshop to review the Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism was held in Barbados from 17 to 20 March 2014. The VUSSC Education Specialist participated and co-facilitated the workshop to review and update the two courses. Sixteen institutions will be implementing the revised curriculum. Ms Diana Louard of Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College participated in the workshop.

Open Textbooks Development

A regional Open Textbooks Forum was held in Antigua & Barbuda, from 19 to 20 June 2013, which resulted in an agreement to develop a concept paper on the development of open textbooks for the Eastern Caribbean school curriculum. The concept paper was presented to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Education Ministers’ meeting in Antigua & Barbuda in September 2013. A total of 12 participants from the six Commonwealth members of the OECS, plus a representative of the OECS and a representative from Guyana, participated. Ms Ionie Liburd-Willett and Ms Clarice Cotton of the Ministry of Education attended the forum.

MODELS

Transnational Qualifications Framework

The Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF) was used as a reference point to finalise the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Qualifications Framework, which was completed and referenced against the TQF. This means that all VUSSC courses offered by institutions in the Caribbean will be registered on the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised both at the regional and international levels.

Flexible and Blended model of TVET

The FaB model of flexible skills development supports the integration of technology to help TVET systems become more relevant and responsive. COL strengthens the capacity of TVET educators, managers and policy advisers, across four dimensions: strategic planning, organisational development, ICT infrastructure management and teaching and learning. Adoption of this model can lead to quality improvement in programme delivery and can lead to increased access to TVET.
The FaB model seeks to increase access to TVET through efficiency gains but also by targeting learners who are currently locked out of the TVET system. These target groups include people working in the informal sector, remote and rural dwellers and people with disabilities. Resolving inequity is a central philosophy.

**POLICIES**

**Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education**

The Second Consultation Meeting for the finalisation and adoption of the draft CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education was held in Trinidad & Tobago on 27 to 28 September 2012. Twenty-five participants from member states of CARICOM were represented at the meeting. The next stage is to adapt the standards to suit the policies and realities of each country.

**ICT in Education/OER Policy**

An ICT in Education/OER Policy Development workshop was held in October 2013 in collaboration with the regional UNESCO office. Thirty educators from across educational sectors in St. Kitts & Nevis participated in the workshop, which was opened by Ms Ionie Liburd-Willett, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education.

Participants produced a draft ICT in Education/OER policy which is now undergoing review and awaiting Cabinet approval. The Hon Nigel Carty, Minister of Education, was briefed on the outcome of the workshop.

**Regional ODL Policy Framework**

In collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), COL facilitated a roundtable from 19 to 22 June 2012 at the UWI campus in Barbados. Twelve participants from Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & The Grenadines attended the roundtable.

The draft Regional ODL Policy Framework for the Caribbean, which resulted from the workshop, was circulated to the non-represented stakeholders in the Caribbean, including CARICOM, for their comments.

To move forward on the adoption of the regional framework by member countries, COL met with Dr Morella Joseph, Programme Manager for Human Resource Development, CARICOM, on 8 May 2013 in Trinidad & Tobago. As per the action plan, the draft Regional ODL Policy Framework was presented in the ministerial meeting organised by CARICOM from 20 to 22 May 2013, in Jamaica. The framework was endorsed by the Ministers. A workshop held from 24 to 25 March 2014 in Trinidad & Tobago reviewed the final draft before it was proposed to the meeting of Caribbean Education Ministers. Mr Quinton Morton attended the workshop.

The regional ODL policy has been finalised with CARICOM, and approved by the Ministers of Education. It is awaiting formal ratification.
**CONTEXT**

St. Lucia is a small island state of the Commonwealth with a population of about 182,000. Tourism is the largest contributor to the economy and enrolment rates for primary and secondary education are high. St Lucia is actively involved with the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) and several other COL regional activities. St. Lucia regularly contributes to COL’s budget.

**AGREED PRIORITIES**

► Develop legislation and policy for post-secondary and higher education
► Establish an information system for managing the education sector
► Promote quality assurance systems and professional development
► Improve modalities of delivery of instruction by building capacity at the community college to use information and communications technologies (ICTs) in teaching and learning
► Develop classification plan/career paths for teachers

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL**

► CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education developed
► 11 new VUSSC courses made available
► Three Community Learning Programmes (CLPs) on health, sexuality and disabilities developed

**COL’S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS**

**National MDG Targets Addressed by COL**
► Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications
► Improve maternal health

**COL’s Work on St Lucia’s MDG Targets**
► VUSSC is committed to the collaborative development of open content resources for education, training and capacity-building, and the use of ICTs to broaden access to education
► Capacity-building, materials development and policy support for sharing OER and promoting ODL are underway
► CLPs on health and sexuality developed to encourage positive behaviours that could in turn improve maternal health

**QUICK NOTES**

**COL Focal Point:**

**Areas of COL’s Work in St. Lucia:**
► Open Schooling
► Teacher Education
► Higher Education
► Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
► Healthy Communities
► eLearning
ST. LUCIA

COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

PARTNERSHIPS
COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

► Radio St. Lucia Company Ltd
► The Wave FM
► Sir Arthur Lewis Community College
► Transformative Communication Partners

CAPACITY
Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

► Regional OER workshop
► Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns
► Cost and Financing workshop
► Regional workshop on the Flexible and Blended TVET Model
► Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
► Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate

MATERIALS
Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

► Research Report on Community Learning in the Eastern Caribbean
► 11 new VUSSC courses made available
► Open Textbooks Development

MODELS
A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

► Transnational Qualifications Framework
► Flexible and Blended TVET

POLICIES
A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

► CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education
► Regional ODL Policy Framework

OTHER
► Speeches and presentations
ST. LUCIA

In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for St. Lucia was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of St. Lucia. The following areas were identified:

► Training of teachers in CXC NotesMaster Digital Platform
► Establishing of a National Qualifications Framework
► Strengthening of the Youth in Agriculture Programme, including the areas of life skills training, business/entrepreneurial skills; development of cooperatives; management of business, risk management and training in crops and livestock
► Promoting more awareness of adolescent health and sexual reproductive health issues

LOOKING FORWARD: 2015–2021
Appendix: COL’s Activities St. Lucia

PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

St. Lucia is a member of VUSSC.

Support for the TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) National Vocational Framework

The Permanent Secretary of St. Lucia’s Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development and Labour asked for COL’s support with the TVET National Vocational Framework, and a proposal is being drafted for submission to COL.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)

COL sponsored the following people to the forum: Ms Cathy Diane Augier-Gill of the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development and Labour.

Regional Focal Points Meeting

Ms Marietta Edward of the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development and Labour represented St. Lucia at the meeting.

Communication for Development Workshop/Meeting

COL organised a two-day workshop in St. Lucia in November 2012 for 18 representatives of NGOs, CBOs and government departments and civil society groups on the topic of communication for development. Ms Barbara Jacobs Small of Transformative Communication Partners Caribbean (St. Lucia), Rosamond Brown of CARIMAC and Transformative Communication Partners (Jamaica) and COL were co-facilitators of the workshop. The workshop resulted in new ideas for the application of communication for development methods in St. Lucia, a number of which were followed up in capacity-building activities.

Global Biennial Small States Conference

The Commonwealth Secretariat (COMSEC) hosted the Third Global Biennial Small States Conference in St. Lucia, from 26 to 27 March 2014. The conference aimed to provide small states a platform to share experiences and good practices, find ways to build sustainable economic growth and identify areas for support from development partners. The VUSSC Education Specialist represented COL at this conference, and presented a speech titled “Capacity Building, the Road to Resilience.”

VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting

The VUSSC Interlocutors meet every three years to review developments, achievements and lessons learned. The VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting coincides with the Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF). PCF7 was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 6 December 2013. At this meeting, Interlocutors participated in a half-day impact evaluation workshop with COL’s impact evaluators, Dr Stephen Murgatroyd and Ms Janet Tully. Highlights of the Interlocutors Meeting included a discussion of the post-MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), current VUSSC resources, and the importance of gender in the VUSSC initiative. At the close of the meeting, the following countries expressed interest in offering VUSSC courses: Barbados, Vanuatu, Namibia, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, Maldives, Grenada and Dominica. Ms Cathy Diane Augier-Gill of the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development and Labour represented St. Lucia at this meeting.

CAPACITY

Regional OER Workshop

The Regional OER workshop was held in Jamaica from 5 to 7 November 2012. This workshop followed through on the outcomes of the Paris Declaration, which was finalised at the OER World Congress in Paris in June 2012. The purpose of the workshop was to:

► develop a common understanding of the concept of OER and its potential to contribute to improving education in the Caribbean countries;
► define concrete contributions that OER can make in achieving key regional and national educational policy objectives;
► explore the policy requirements to create an enabling environment for effective use of OER and sharing of publicly financed educational resources under open licences; and
► define a roadmap for the development of effective, practical OER country policies and plans in the Caribbean.


Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns

COL co-facilitated with Ms Barbara Jacobs Small of Transformative Communication Partners (TCP) St. Lucia a session on participatory approaches to disaster awareness campaigns as part of a Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) workshop for senior broadcast managers.
in the region. The CBA workshop on Emergency and Disaster Management for Broadcasters was held on 29 to 30 October 2012 in Trinidad & Tobago. The session introduced COL-TCP-Caribbean and COL’s work with participatory learning communication to the participants; analysed the current situation, communication programmes and disaster awareness; shared a practical tool that illustrated COL’s approach; and identified opportunities for follow-up. Thirty-seven people participated in the COL session, including attendees from across the Commonwealth Caribbean, as well as representatives of the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Suriname, United Kingdom and United States. Mr Joseph E. Maxwell, Radio St. Lucia Company Ltd and Mr Michael Rogers, The Wave, attended the workshop.

Cost and Financing Workshop

To ensure sustainable open schools that will increase access to learning opportunities, it is important that open schools adopt the correct systems and policies. Key among these is a cost and financing system. Ms Anselma Calderon from St. Lucia attended a cost and financing workshop in Barbados from 12 to 17 August 2013.

Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended Model of Skills Training

From 17 to 20 February 2014, COL co-facilitated a workshop in Barbados on the Flexible and Blended model of skills training with 21 participants from 10 Caribbean countries. Equity in access to skills training was a key discussion point. Mr Thomas Boulogan from Sir Arthur Lewis Community College and and Estellita Rene, Chair of the TVET Council attended the meeting.

VUSSC Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop

On 24 to 25 March 2014, VUSSC Interlocutors of the Caribbean region participated in a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) workshop held in Trinidad & Tobago, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Development, to evaluate the VUSSC M&E plan, update the VUSSC logic model and explore tools used for the collection and analysis of data.

Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate

Three distance training and mentoring courses have been developed and delivered through a partnership between the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC), Transformative Communication Partners (TCP) Caribbean and COL.

At a 9-month blended training and mentoring programme (Caribbean regional), January to September 2013, seven representatives of five organisations in St. Lucia were trained and mentored in the planning, design and delivery of CLPs. As well, three CLPs were designed through the process, including series on: 1) diabetes and hypertension, 2) youth sexuality, and 3) disabilities.

Two editions of the 5-week “Communication for Development (C4D): Why. How. Now.” e-course were run in 2013 and 2014. In February to March 2014, two participants (one man and one woman) from public sector and civil society organisations in St. Lucia were involved in the training.

The 10-week “Research for Planning” e-course was run in 2014. From April to June 2014, two participants (one man and one woman) from the country were engaged in the training and mentoring course, resulting in comprehensive plans for CLPs based on formative research.

MATERIALS

Research Report on Community Learning in the Eastern Caribbean

A study into the availability, quality and usage of non-formal health/development educational opportunities, specifically ODL and communication for development programmes in Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean, was conducted by Transformative Communication Partners Caribbean between September and December 2012, with the results presented in 2013.

New VUSSC Courses

During 2013–2014, 11 VUSSC courses were completed including: Master’s in Educational Leadership, Bachelor’s in Business and Entrepreneurship, Diploma in Agriculture, Linux for IT Managers, Facilitating Online Instruction, and Sustainable Tourism. Courses are available to all VUSSC member states on the VUSSC website. Approximately 49,000 people have been reached or trained, including senior officials, educators and over 1,300 learners enrolled in VUSSC-developed courses and programmes.

VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education

Senior officials of the small states identified a need to develop a teacher education programme, especially at the postgraduate level, to help address the acute shortage of teachers in most of the small states and the lack of training programmes in most teacher training institutions. COL therefore facilitated a workshop, in collaboration with the National University of Samoa, to develop a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). It ran from 17 June to 3 July 2013 in Samoa, with 28 participants from 14 countries. Much of the course was developed using OER.
**Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism**

In collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), a workshop to review the Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism was held in Barbados from 17 to 20 March 2014. The VUSSC Education Specialist participated and co-facilitated the workshop to review and update the two courses. Sixteen institutions will be implementing the revised curriculum. Ms Diodata Preville-Alfred of Sir Arthur Lewis Community College participated in the workshop.

**Open Textbooks Development**

A regional Open Textbooks Forum was held in Antigua & Barbuda, from 19 to 20 June 2013, which resulted in an agreement to develop a concept paper on the development of open textbooks for the Eastern Caribbean school curriculum. The concept paper was presented to the OECS Education Ministers’ meeting in Antigua & Barbuda in September 2013. A total of 12 participants from the six Commonwealth members of the OECS, plus a representative of the OECS and a representative from Guyana, participated. Ms Nathalie Elliott of the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development and Labour, attended the forum.

**MODELS**

**Transnational Qualifications Framework**

The Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF) was used as a reference point to finalise the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Qualifications Framework, which was completed and referenced against the TQF. This means that all VUSSC courses offered by institutions in the Caribbean will be registered on the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised at both the regional and international levels.

**Policies**

**Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education**

The Second Consultation Meeting for the finalisation and adoption of the draft CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education was held in Trinidad & Tobago on 27 to 28 September 2012. Twenty-five participants from member states of CARICOM were represented at the meeting.

The next stage is to adapt the standards to suit the policies and realities of each country.

**Regional ODL Policy Framework**

In collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), COL facilitated a roundtable from 19 to 22 June 2012 at the UWI campus in Barbados. Twelve participants from Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & The Grenadines attended the roundtable.

The draft Regional ODL Policy Framework for the Caribbean, which resulted from the workshop, was circulated to the non-represented stakeholders in the Caribbean, including CARICOM, for their comments.

To move forward on the adoption of the regional framework by member countries, COL met with Dr Morella Joseph, Programme Manager for Human Resource Development, CARICOM, on 8 May 2013 in Trinidad & Tobago. As per the action plan, the draft Regional ODL Policy Framework was presented in the ministerial meeting organised by CARICOM from 20 to 22 May 2013, in Jamaica. The framework was endorsed by the Ministers. A workshop held from 24 to 25 March 2014 in Trinidad & Tobago reviewed the final draft before it was proposed to the meeting of Caribbean Education Ministers. Mr Marcellus Albertin and Ms Marietta Edward attended the workshop.

The regional ODL policy has been finalised, with work with CARICOM, and approved by the Ministers of Education. It is awaiting formal ratification.

**Other**

**Speeches and Presentations**

The Vice-President of COL gave a presentation titled “Constructing the Framework for Financing Tertiary Education” at the Caribbean Development Bank’s 43rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors, Panel Discussion – Financing Tertiary Education held 22 May 2013 in St. Lucia.
CONTEXT

A group of many islands and cays in the Caribbean, St. Vincent & The Grenadines is a small state of the Commonwealth with a population of about 110,000. Enrolment rates are high for both primary and secondary school. St. Vincent & The Grenadines continues to benefit from its involvement in key COL activities, including the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth.

AGREED PRIORITIES

► Promote wellness and develop social communication techniques
► Acquire diet analysis software
► Carry out a human resource audit of the health sector
► Develop programmes and training in leadership for health sector workers
► Expand education in public health

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL

► Training in Community Learning Programme (CLP) development conducted, resulting in comprehensive plans for health- and wellness-related programmes
► 11 new VUSSC courses made available
► National ICT in Education Policy and OER policy statement drafted

COL’S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS

National MDG Targets Addressed by COL
► Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

COL’s Work on St. Vincent & The Grenadines’ MDG Targets
► VUSSC is committed to the collaborative development of open content resources for education, training and capacity-building, and the use of ICTs to broaden access to education.
► Capacity-building, materials development and policy support for sharing open educational resources (OER) and promoting open and distance learning (ODL) are underway.

QUICK NOTES

COL Focal Point:
► Ms Lou-Anne Gilchrist, Ministry of Education

Areas of COL’s Work in St. Vincent & The Grenadines:
► Open Schooling
► Teacher Education
► Higher Education
► Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
► Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
► Healthy Communities
► eLearning
COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

**PARTNERSHIPS**
COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

- Ministry of Education
- St. Vincent & The Grenadines Community College (SVGCC)
- National Broadcasting Corporation
- Chamber of Agriculture and Nutrition

**CAPACITY**
Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

- Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns
- Regional OER workshop
- Costs and Financing for Open Schools
- Flexible Learning, OER and Change Management in TVET
- Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended TVET Model
- Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
- Moodle Administration and eLearning
- Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate
- Blended Online Training

**MATERIALS**
Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

- Research Report on Community Learning in the Eastern Caribbean
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- Open Textbooks Development
- Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration (CCTI)

**MODELS**
A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

- Transnational Qualifications Framework
- Flexible and Blended TVET

**POLICIES**
A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

- CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education
- ICT in Education Policy with OER Policy Statement
- Regional ODL Policy Framework
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for St. Vincent & The Grenadines was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of St. Vincent & The Grenadines. The following areas were identified:

► Promotion of good health and wellness and disease prevention and control
► Strengthening of health technologies: a health information system, laboratory information system, radiological and pharmacologic services and e-health
► Enhancing of the competence of the Education Officers, school administrators and teachers to harness ICT effectively to support high-quality teaching, learning/skills development, and human resource management and development in all educational institutions
► Expansion of support to the St. Vincent & The Grenadines Community College to introduce flexible learning modalities to reach remote communities and strengthen the policy framework for ICT and ODL
► Training of farmers in the diversification of agriculture and in agro-processing, using mobile phones and other ICT
Appendix: COL’s Activities in St. Vincent & The Grenadines

PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

St. Vincent & The Grenadines is a member of VUSSC. Mr Nigel Scott, Deputy Director, St. Vincent & The Grenadines Community College (SVGCC), was appointed as the VUSSC interlocutor for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

INVEST Community Learning Network

COL provides an online community of practice to support INVEST (Innovation in Vocational Education and Skills Training) for managers, teachers and policy-makers in technical and vocational education and training (TVET). The network currently has more than 1,182 members engaged in informal learning and collaboration, 10 of whom are from SVGCC.

Support for TVET at SVGCC

COL is continuing its partnership with SVGCC to strengthen their capacity in eLearning, with a view to offering TVET programmes to off-campus students from 2014 on.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Regional Focal Points Meeting

Ms Lou-Anne Gilchrist, Ministry of Education represented St. Vincent & The Grenadines at the meeting.

Meeting with the Minister of Education, Permanent Secretary and the Chief Education Officer

COL met with the Minister of Education, the Permanent Secretary and the Chief Education Officer in St. Vincent & The Grenadines in February 2014. The COL programme, results-based monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and the forthcoming Focal Points meeting were discussed.

VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting

The VUSSC Interlocutors meet every three years to review developments, achievements and lessons learned. The VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting coincides with the Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF). PCF7 was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 6 December 2013. At this meeting, Interlocutors participated in a half-day impact evaluation workshop with COL’s impact evaluators, Dr Stephen Murgatroyd and Ms Janet Tully. Highlights of the Interlocutors Meeting included a discussion of the post-MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), current VUSSC resources, and the importance of gender in the VUSSC initiative. At the close of the meeting, the following countries expressed interest in offering VUSSC courses: Barbados, Vanuatu, Namibia, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, Maldives, Grenada and Dominica. St. Vincent & The Grenadines was not represented at this meeting.

CAPACITY

Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns

COL co-facilitated with Ms Barbara Jacobs Small of Transformative Communication Partners (TCP) St. Lucia a session on participatory approaches to disaster awareness campaigns as part of a Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) workshop for senior broadcast managers in the region. The CBA workshop on Emergency and Disaster Management for Broadcasters was held on 29 to 30 October 2012 in Trinidad & Tobago. The session introduced COL-TCP-Caribbean and COL’s work with participatory learning communication to the participants; analysed the current situation, communication programmes and disaster awareness; shared a practical tool that illustrated COL’s approach; and identified opportunities for follow-up. Thirty-seven people participated in the COL session, including attendees from across the Commonwealth Caribbean, as well as representatives of the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Suriname, United Kingdom and United States. Ms Cortetta Ollivierre of National Broadcasting Corporation attended the workshop.

Regional OER Workshop

The Regional OER workshop was held in Jamaica from 5 to 7 November 2012. This workshop followed through on the outcomes of the Paris Declaration, which was finalised at the OER World Congress in Paris in June 2012. The purpose of the workshop was to:

► develop a common understanding of the concept of OER and its potential to contribute to improving education in the Caribbean countries;
► define concrete contributions that OER can make in achieving key regional and national educational policy objectives;
► explore the policy requirements to create an enabling environment for effective use of OER and sharing of publicly financed educational resources under open licences; and
► define a roadmap for the development of effective, practical OER country policies and plans in the Caribbean.

Mr Dixton Findlay of the Ministry of Education, Mr Nigel Scott of SVGCC, and Ms Susan Dougan of the Office of the Prime Minister attended the workshop.
Cost and Financing Workshop

To ensure sustainable open schools that will increase access to learning opportunities, it is important that open schools adopt the correct systems and policies. Key among these is a cost and financing system. Mr Dixon Findlay from St. Vincent & The Grenadines attended a cost and financing workshop in Barbados from 12 to 17 August 2013.

Flexible Learning, OER and Change Management

COL facilitated discussion and training sessions on flexible learning, OERs and change management at SVGCC in February 2014. Over 60 teachers, Heads of Department and administrators participated.

Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended Model of Skills Training

From 17 to 20 February 2014, COL co-facilitated a workshop in Barbados on the Flexible and Blended model of skills training with 21 participants from 10 Caribbean countries. Equity in access to skills training was a key discussion point. Mr Dwight Lewis of the National Qualifications/Sector Skills Development Agency and Mr Osborne Bowens Dean of TVET at SVGCC attended the meeting.

VUSSC Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop

On 24 to 25 March 2014, VUSSC Interlocutors of the Caribbean region participated in a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) workshop held in Trinidad & Tobago, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Development, to evaluate the VUSSC M&E plan, update the VUSSC logic model and explore tools used for the collection and analysis of data.

Moodle Administration and eLearning

In May 2014, COL consultant George Herd built capacity at SVGCC in Moodle Administration and eLearning by facilitating a workshop for the team managing the college’s learning management system and also by facilitating an advanced eLearning workshop for 25 Master Tutors.

Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate

Three regional distance training and mentoring courses have been developed and delivered through a partnership between the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC), Transformative Communication Partners (TCP) Caribbean and COL.

The 5-week “Communication for Development (C4D): Why. How. Now.” e-course was run in February to March 2014. One participant (a woman) from the St. Vincent & The Grenadines Chamber of Agriculture and Nutrition was involved in the training.

The 10-week “Research for Planning” e-course was run in 2014. In April to June 2014, two participants (both women) from the country were engaged in the training and mentoring course, resulting in comprehensive plans for CLPs based on formative research.

Blended Online Training Workshop

COL is working with teachers in the TVET Division of SVGCC, 25 of whom participated in a workshop on blended online training.

MATERIALS

Research Report on Community Learning in the Eastern Caribbean

A study into the availability, quality and usage of non-formal health/development educational opportunities, specifically ODL and communication for development programmes in Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean, was conducted by Transformative Communication Partners Caribbean between September and December 2012, with the results presented in 2013.

New VUSSC Courses

During 2013–2014, 11 VUSSC courses were completed including: Master’s in Educational Leadership, Bachelor’s in Business and Entrepreneurship, Diploma in Agriculture, Linux for IT Managers, Facilitating Online Instruction, and Sustainable Tourism. Courses are available to all VUSSC member states on the VUSSC website. Approximately 49,000 people have been reached or trained, including senior officials, educators and over 1,300 learners enrolled in VUSSC-developed courses and programmes.

VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education

Senior officials of the small states identified a need to develop a teacher education programme, especially at the postgraduate level, to help address the acute shortage of teachers in most of the small states and the lack of training programmes in most teacher training institutions. COL therefore facilitated a workshop, in collaboration with the National University of Samoa, to develop a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). It ran from 17 June to 3 July 2013 in Samoa, with 28 participants from 14 countries. Much of the course was developed using OER.

Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism

In collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), a workshop to review the Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism
Tourism was held in Barbados from 17 to 20 March 2014. The VUSSC Education Specialist participated and co-facilitated the workshop to review and update the two courses. Sixteen institutions will be implementing the revised curriculum. Ms Hazel Roberts of SVGCC participated in the workshop.

**Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration (CCTI)**

Approximately 40 educators continue to work towards completion of the CCTI in St. Vincent & The Grenadines.

**MODELS**

**Transnational Qualifications Framework**

The Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF) was used as a reference point to finalise the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Qualifications Framework, which was completed and referenced against the TQF. This means that all VUSSC courses offered by institutions in the Caribbean will be registered on the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised at both the regional and international levels.

**POLICIES**

**Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education**

The Second Consultation Meeting for the finalisation and adoption of the draft CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education was held in Trinidad & Tobago on 27 to 28 September 2012. Twenty-five participants from member states of CARICOM were represented at the meeting. The next stage is to adapt the standards to suit the policies and realities of each country.

**ICT in Education Policy with OER Policy Statement**

COL organised a workshop on 25 to 26 June 2013 to develop an ICT in Education policy that included an OER policy statement. Twenty-two participants attended the workshop. A draft ICT in Education policy, with specific OER provisions, was developed and a consultation process established. Ms Lou-Anne Gilchrist and Mr Dixton Findlay of the Ministry of Education, and Mr Nigel Scott of SVGCC attended the workshop. The policy is awaiting formal adoption.

**Regional ODL Policy Framework**

In collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), COL facilitated a roundtable from 19 to 22 June 2012 at the UWI campus in Barbados. Twelve participants from Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & The Grenadines attended the roundtable.

The draft Regional ODL Policy Framework for the Caribbean, which resulted from the workshop, was circulated to the non-represented stakeholders in the Caribbean, including CARICOM, for their comments.

To move forward on the adoption of the regional framework by member countries, COL met with Dr Morella Joseph, Programme Manager for Human Resource Development, CARICOM, on 8 May 2013 in Trinidad & Tobago. As per the action plan, the draft Regional ODL Policy Framework was presented in the ministerial meeting organised by CARICOM from 20 to 22 May 2013, in Jamaica. The framework was endorsed by the Ministers. A workshop held from 24 to 25 March 2014 in Trinidad & Tobago reviewed the final draft before it was proposed to the meeting of Caribbean Education Ministers. Ms Deborah Scobie-Dalrymple attended the workshop.

The regional ODL policy has been finalised with CARICOM, and approved by the Ministers of Education. It is awaiting formal ratification.
CONTEXT

Trinidad & Tobago is a small state of the Commonwealth, with a largely rural population of about 1.4 million. Literacy rates are high, as are enrolment rates for primary and secondary education. An active and consistent partner, Trinidad & Tobago contributes annually to COL’s budget.

AGREED PRIORITIES

► Expand/formalise the Open School model, supporting adoption in Caribbean states
► Promote the Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration (CCTI), supporting adoption in the Ministry of Education
► Support Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
► Pursue skills development and initiatives in Healthy Communities and Lifelong Learning for Farmers programmes
► Establish quality assurance standards

COL’S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS

National MDG Targets Addressed by COL
► Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

COL’s Work on Trinidad & Tobago’s MDG Targets
► VUSSC is committed to the collaborative development of open content resources for education, training and capacity-building, and the use of ICTs to broaden access to education
► Capacity-building, materials development and policy support for sharing open educational resources (OER) and promoting open and distance learning (ODL) are underway

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL

► Approximately 25 educators are working towards completion of the CCTI
► 11 new VUSSC courses made available
► VUSSC/CTO Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism made available
► Community Learning Programme on Anger Management delivered
► Institutional open educational resources (OER) policy completed
► National open and distance learning (ODL) policy drafted
► Bachelor in Business and Entrepreneurship accredited by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago

QUICK NOTES

COL Focal Points:
► Ms Karen Rosemin, Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training
► Ms Saleema Hyatali, Ministry of Education

Notable Mentions:
► Professor Clement Sankat of the University of the West Indies (UWI) was the Regional Representative for the Caribbean on COL’s Board of Governors. He was also Chair of the Audit Committee of the Board.
► Dr Olabisi Kuboni of UWI won an Excellence in Distance Education Award and was named an Honorary Fellow of COL.

Areas of COL’s Work in Trinidad & Tobago:
► Open Schooling
► Teacher Education
► Higher Education
► Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
► Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
► Healthy Communities
► eLearning
COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

**PARTNERSHIPS**
COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training
- Trinidad & Tobago Open School
- Waterloo Secondary Skills School
- University of the West Indies, School of Business and Applied Studies (ROYTEC)
- Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT)
- University of Trinidad & Tobago
- Trinidad & Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute
- Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service
- Youth Training Centre
- Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network

**CAPACITY**
Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

- Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns
- Regional OER workshop
- Use and Reuse of OER in Higher Education
- Cost and Financing workshop
- Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended Model of Skills Training
- eFacilitation Skills
- Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
- Ongoing capacity building in OER at ROYTEC
- Community Learning Programme Developer’s Certificate
- eLearning and instructional design online training for ROYTEC, CARPHA and the Police Academy

**MATERIALS**
Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

- 11 new VUSSC courses
- VUSSC/CTO Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism
- Online Sustainable Tourism course
- OER for TVET Resource Toolbox
- Commonwealth Certificate in Technology Integration for Teachers (CCTI)

**MODELS**
A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

- Transnational Qualifications Framework
- Healthy Communities model
- Flexible and Blended TVET

**POLICIES**
A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

- CARICOM Standards for Teaching and Teacher Education
- Regional ODL Policy Framework
- Institutional OER Policy
- Draft National ODL Policy

**OTHER**

- Speeches and presentations
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for Trinidad & Tobago was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Trinidad & Tobago. The following areas were identified:

► Incorporation of Trinidad & Tobago Research and Education Network (TTRENT) as a non-profit organisation, and the expansion of the e-infrastructure to include the school network of the Ministry of Education, libraries and hospitals, and other key stakeholders
► Expansion of the LEARN.TT initiative; development of content for the content management system; building of capacity for local learning content; and establishment of a mobile platform/learning hubs
► Building of capacity in instructional design and in designing for online learning and teaching
► Restructuring of the Open School initiative
► Adoption of a National Qualifications Framework covering technical vocational education and training (TVET) and tertiary education; and adoption of the VUSSC Qualifications Framework
COL IN THE COMMONWEALTH 2012-2015 271

Appendix: COL’s Activities in Trinidad & Tobago

PARTNERSHIPS

COMOSA (Commonwealth Open Schooling Association)
Twenty-two partners signed the COMOSA constitution including Trinidad & Tobago Open School.

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)
Trinidad & Tobago is an active member of VUSSC and COL has supported ROYTEC, CARPHA and the Police Academy with capacity-building and repurposing of the Bachelor in Business and Entrepreneurship.

Ministry of Tertiary Education and Training: Support for knowledge.tt Educational Broadcasting
COL has agreed to support the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, Trinidad & Tobago, with Phase 1 capacity-building of the knowledge.tt Educational Broadcasting initiative. A draft agreement is in discussion.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)
COL sponsored the following people to the forum: Mr Steve Arman of the Government of Trinidad & Tobago, Ms Saleema Hyatali of the Ministry of Education, Senator the Hon Fazal Karim of the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, Dr Olabisi Kuboni, Ms Karen Rosemin of the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, and Mr Steve Warner of the Waterloo Secondary Skills School/ UWI open Campus.

Regional Focal Points Meeting
Ms Karen Rosemin, Director of the Distance Learning Secretariat from the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, and Ms Saleema Hyatali, Head, Teaching and Teacher Development Division from the Ministry of Education, represented Trinidad & Tobago at the meeting.

COMOSA Planning Meeting and Theory of Change Workshop
Bangladesh Open University, in collaboration with COL, hosted a COMOSA Planning Meeting, as well as Theory of Change workshops in Dhaka from 30 September to 3 October 2014. Ms Lystra Sampson Ovid of the Trinidad & Tobago Open School participated in the meeting and workshops.

VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting
The VUSSC Interlocutors meet every three years to review developments, achievements and lessons learned. The VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting coincides with the Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF). PCF7 was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 6 December 2013. At this meeting, Interlocutors participated in a half-day impact evaluation workshop with COL’s impact evaluators, Dr Stephen Murgatroyd and Ms Janet Tully. Highlights of the Interlocutors Meeting included a discussion of the post-MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), current VUSSC resources, and the importance of gender in the VUSSC initiative. At the close of the meeting, the following countries expressed interest in offering VUSSC courses: Barbados, Vanuatu, Namibia, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, Maldives, Grenada and Dominica. Ms Karen Rosemin, of the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, and Ms Saleema Hyatali of the Ministry of Education represented Trinidad & Tobago at this meeting.

Regional Workshop on the Flexible and Blended TVET
From 17 to 20 February 2014, COL co-facilitated a workshop in Barbados on the Flexible and Blended model of skills training with 21 participants from 10 Caribbean countries. This is collaboration between COL and members of the Caribbean Association of National Training Agencies (CANTA). Equity in access to skills training was a key discussion point along with OERs and collaborative course development. Mr Steve Arman of NTA and Ms Isha Khan of TVET Provider Institution – Export Centres Company Ltd attended the meeting.

CAPACITY

Participatory Approaches to Disaster Awareness Campaigns
COL co-facilitated with Ms Barbara Jacobs Small of Transformative Communication Partners (TCP) St. Lucia a session on participatory approaches to disaster awareness campaigns as part of a Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) workshop for senior broadcast managers in the region. The CBA workshop on Emergency and Disaster Management for Broadcasters was held on 29 to 30 October 2012 in Trinidad & Tobago. The session introduced COL-TCP-Caribbean and COL’s work with participatory learning communication to the participants; analysed the current situation, communication programmes and disaster awareness; shared a practical tool that illustrated COL’s approach; and identified opportunities for follow-up. Thirty-seven people participated in the COL session, including attendees from across the Commonwealth Caribbean, as well as representatives of the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Suriname, United Kingdom and United States. Thirteen people from various broadcasting stations in Trinidad & Tobago attended the workshop.
Regional OER Workshop

The Regional OER workshop was held in Jamaica from 5 to 7 November 2012. This workshop followed through on the outcomes of the Paris Declaration, which was finalised at the OER World Congress in Paris in June 2012. The purpose of the workshop was to:

► develop a common understanding of the concept of OER and its potential to contribute to improving education in the Caribbean countries;
► define concrete contributions that OER can make in achieving key regional and national educational policy objectives;
► explore the policy requirements to create an enabling environment for effective use of OER and sharing of publicly financed educational resources under open licences; and
► define a roadmap for the development of effective, practical OER country policies and plans in the Caribbean.

Professor G. Hepburn of UWI Open Campus attended the workshop.

Use and Reuse of OER in Higher Education

On 5 May 2013, COL facilitated at the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training a one-day workshop on the use and reuse of OER in higher education. Twenty-four academics from all the major higher education institutions in Trinidad & Tobago participated in the workshop.

Cost and Financing Workshop

To ensure sustainable open schools that will increase access to learning opportunities, it is important that open schools adopt the correct systems and policies. Key among these is a cost and financing system. Ms Lystra Sampson Ovid from the Trinidad & Tobago Open School attended a cost and financing workshop in Barbados from 12 to 17 August 2013.

eFacilitation Skills

Ms Rachael Guzman de Vlugt was trained in e-facilitation skills (September 2013) as part of regional capacity-building efforts in relation to the delivery of the Community Learning Programme Developer’s Certificate in 2014. Ms de Vlugt was subsequently engaged as an apprentice e-facilitator for the “C4D: Why. How. Now.” e-course run in February to March 2014.

VUSSC Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop

Evaluation (M&E) workshop held in Trinidad & Tobago, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Development, to evaluate the VUSSC M&E plan, update the VUSSC logic model and explore tools used for the collection and analysis of data. Ms Karen Rosemin of the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training and Ms Saleema Hyatali of the Ministry of Education represented Trinidad & Tobago at this workshop.

Ongoing Capacity-Building in OER at ROYTEC

Funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (WFHF), VUSSC is working with the UWI, School of Business and Applied Studies (ROYTEC) to build capacity in OER and eLearning. Two workshops were completed on how to use online learning and open educational resources (OER). The review of the Bachelor degree in Business and Entrepreneurship has now been completed and the programme has also been accredited by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT). Migration of the print version of the courses online is progressing well. The fourth and final phase will be for ROYTEC to start offering the programme to students in Trinidad & Tobago. This collaboration is VUSSC’s first attempt to fully exploit the use of OER. A total of 34 staff participated in an online course on Training, Developing and Teaching Online Courses, in preparation for the delivery of the Bachelor in Business and Entrepreneurship. About 25 instructors from ROYTEC participated in the online course on Developing and Teaching Online Courses, which was delivered May–July 2014.

Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate

Three regional distance training and mentoring courses have been developed and delivered through a partnership between the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC), Transformative Communication Partners (TCP) Caribbean, and COL.

Two editions of the 5-week “Communication for Development (C4D): Why. How. Now.” e-course were run. In October to November 2013, one participant (a woman) from Trinidad & Tobago in the private sector was trained. In February to March 2014, 10 participants (six women and four men) from various government departments and civil society organisations were trained.

The 10-week “Research for Planning” e-course was run in 2014. In April to June 2014, two participants (both women) from Trinidad & Tobago were engaged in the training and mentoring course, resulting in comprehensive plans for CLPs based on formative research.
MATERIALS

New VUSSC Courses

During 2013–2014, 11 VUSSC courses were completed: Master’s in Educational Leadership, Bachelor’s in Business and Entrepreneurship, Diploma in Agriculture, Linux for IT Managers, Facilitating Online Instruction, and Sustainable Tourism. Courses are available to all VUSSC member states on the VUSSC website. Approximately 49,000 people have been reached or trained, including senior officials, educators and over 1,300 learners enrolled in VUSSC-developed courses and programmes.

VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education

Senior officials of the small states identified a need to develop a teacher education programme, especially at the postgraduate level, to help address the acute shortage of teachers in most of the small states and the lack of training programmes in most teacher training institutions. COL therefore facilitated a workshop, in collaboration with the National University of Samoa, to develop a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). It ran from 17 June to 3 July 2013 in Samoa, with 28 participants from 14 countries. Much of the course was developed using OER. Attending the workshop was Mr Jainarine Bansee, University of Trinidad & Tobago, Mechanical Engineering Department, Technical/Science/Maintenance/Management Projects.

Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism

In collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), a workshop to review the Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism was held in Barbados from 17 to 20 March 2014. The VUSSC Education Specialist participated and co-facilitated the workshop to review and update the two courses. Sixteen institutions will be implementing the revised curriculum. Mr Keith Robinson, Ms Mersha Regis-Speed and Mr Kieron McDougall of the Trinidad & Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute participated in the workshop.

Online Sustainable Tourism Course

In addition to the 16 institutions offering the Associate Degree programme (face-to-face), the following institutions will be offering the online Sustainable Tourism course once it has been updated: St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Belize, Turks & Caicos, Barbados, Guyana, St. Lucia, The Bahamas, Anguilla and Jamaica.

OER for TVET Resource Toolbox

In March 2014, COL facilitated an OER4TVET Workshop in Botswana to develop a resource toolbox and to find OER with the identification of a subject to be repurposed. The following people from Trinidad & Tobago participated in the workshop: Ms Lystra Sampson-Ovid, Ms Julianna Baptiste and Ms Roxanne Pulido.

Commonwealth Certificate for Technology Integration for Teachers (CCTI)

Approximately 25 educators continue to work towards completion of the CCTI in Trinidad & Tobago.

MODELS

Transnational Qualifications Framework

The Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF) was used as a reference point to finalise the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Qualifications Framework, which was completed and referenced against the TQF. This means that all VUSSC courses offered by institutions in the Caribbean will be registered on the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised at both the regional and international levels.

Healthy Communities Model

In November 2012, COL held a planning workshop with partner organisations in a project to establish a youth media centre and related programming for incarcerated boys and young men, a joint project of the Trinidad Youth Council and the Trinidad & Tobago Prison Service. Thirteen representatives (six women, seven men; five youth [aged <30 years]) of government departments and civil society groups, including community media, engaged in a planning workshop for a community multimedia facility at the Trinidad Youth Centre (TYC), to include community learning programming both for TYC residents and for Trinidad’s larger youth constituency, particularly boys-at-risk.

The workshop served as a catalyst to move the project forward. Ms Rachael Guzman de Vlugt, the UNESCO consultant for the project, secured funding from the Ministry of Community Development for equipment and facilities. The Prison Service allocated staff time and physical space. A group of ministry departments and institutions put together training curricula for new courses to be run and accredited by the centre. COL’s Focal Point ministry, the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, was also supportive, covering all costs associated with the initial planning workshop as well as subsequent capacity-building events.

In a nine-month blended training and mentoring programme (Caribbean regional) from January to September 2013, four representatives of the Trinidad & Tobago Prison Service were trained and mentored to plan, design and deliver community learning programmes (CLPs) on topics relevant to male youth.
(e.g., on anger management), including to Trinidad Youth Centre lads (meaning inmates).

The training and mentoring programme included two face-to-face workshops, held in May and June 2013:

► In May 2013, COL delivered a 2-day workshop on learning programme design for the Youth Training Centre (YTC) group, in which four staff/consultants (three men, one woman, one youth) of the T&T Prison Service, along with five lads (all male youth) of the YTC, were engaged in designing a participatory communication programme about anger management for YTC lads.

► In June 2013, Transformative Communication Partners Caribbean collaborated with COL to deliver a 5-day workshop on learning programme production for the larger YTC group who were engaged in producing a CLP episode about anger management for YTC residents.

Two episodes of the Anger Management CLP have been delivered in the YTC facility as a result of the support, training and mentoring.

**Flexible and Blended Model of TVET**

The FaB model of flexible skills development supports the integration of technology to help TVET systems become more relevant and responsive. COL strengthens the capacity of TVET educators, managers and policy advisers, across four dimensions: strategic planning, organisational development, ICT infrastructure management and teaching and learning. Adoption of this model can lead to quality improvement in programme delivery and can lead to increased access to TVET.

The FaB model seeks to increase access to TVET through efficiency gains but also by targeting learners who are currently locked out of the TVET system. These target groups include people working in the informal sector, remote and rural dwellers and people with disabilities. Resolving inequity is a central philosophy.

**Regional ODL Policy Framework**

In collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), COL facilitated a roundtable from 19 to 22 June 2012 at the UWI campus in Barbados. Twelve participants from Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & The Grenadines attended the roundtable.

The draft Regional ODL Policy Framework for the Caribbean, which resulted from the workshop, was circulated to the non-represented stakeholders in the Caribbean, including CARICOM, for their comments.

To move forward on the adoption of the regional framework by member countries, COL met with Dr Morella Joseph, Programme Manager for Human Resource Development, CARICOM Secretariat, on 8 May 2013 in Trinidad & Tobago. As per the action plan, the draft Regional ODL Policy Framework was presented in the ministerial meeting organised by CARICOM from 20 to 22 May 2013, in Jamaica. The framework was endorsed by the Ministers. A workshop held from 24 to 25 March 2014 in Trinidad & Tobago reviewed the final draft before it was proposed to the meeting of Caribbean Education Ministers. Mr Gary Hepburn, Mr Eduardo Ali, Mr Gerard Ahee and Ms Marta Bonita Morgan attended the workshop.

The regional ODL policy has been finalised with CARICOM, and approved by the Ministers of Education. It is awaiting formal ratification.

**Draft National ODL Policy**

COL met with the Minister Tertiary Education and Skills Training on 5 May 2013 to take the adoption of the national ODL policy framework for Trinidad & Tobago forward. COL’s Education Specialist, Higher Education, reviewed the draft National ODL Policy and provided feedback to the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training in September 2014.

**Institutional OER Policy**

As a result of ongoing capacity-building and support in OER, an OER policy for ROYTEC was developed.

**OTHER**

**Speeches and Presentations**

Professor Asha Kanwar, President and CEO of COL, gave a presentation titled “Democratising Higher Education Through OER: What Are the Possibilities?” at the International Conference on Science and Technology for Economic Diversification on 7 June 2013 in Trinidad & Tobago.
Professor Asha Kanwar was invited by Professor Clement Sankat, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal at UWI Mona Campus, to give a presentation on massive open online courses (MOOCs).

COL attended the official launch of the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN), held on 25 February 2013 in Trinidad & Tobago and made a presentation on OERs for educational transformation at the CKLN assembly. Meetings were held with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training and the Ministry of Education to discuss COL support for OER policy and capacity development and the development of teacher ICT competencies.