



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

COUNTRY REPORT
2021-2023 | **PACIFIC**



Nauru

Helping Commonwealth Member States and institutions use distance learning and technologies for expanding access to education and training.

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) is focused on adding value to member states' efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG4. It's supporting the governments and institutions of the Pacific in the use of appropriate, affordable technologies to improve and expand learning for sustainable development.

During its current plan (2021-2027), COL will:

- i) build on its expertise in ODL, OER and TEL to play a more influential role in national policy development and implementation;
- ii) invest in innovations and research;
- iii) support the digital transformation of institutions and organisations;
- iv) promote gender equality; and
- v) implement a rigorous monitoring and evaluation plan.

COL's work is organised into two sectors — Education and Skills — with Gender Equality and Technology-Enabled Learning (TEL) as cross-cutting initiatives.

The Education sector supports formal education from secondary to tertiary levels across the Commonwealth, particularly in the small states in the Pacific (Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) and has four initiatives: Open Schooling; Teacher Education; Higher Education and the Virtual University for Small States of The Commonwealth (VUSSC).

The Skills sector supports formal, non-formal and informal education and training to equip learners for livelihoods and has three initiatives: Skills for Work; Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) and GIRLS Inspire.

The work in these sectors complement the three pathways of change COL is focusing on in achieving impact for each Pacific member state. These are:

1. Building National Resilience
2. Strengthening Institutions
3. Improving Lives and Livelihoods.

INTRODUCTION

Nauru is a small state of the Commonwealth and the world's smallest independent republic. It has a population of almost 13,000 ([World Bank](#), 2022) and covers just 21 square kilometres.

COL's current work in Nauru is in skills for work and tertiary education through the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) network. Learners from Nauru are also participating in COL's free, open online courses and benefitting from other available resources.

PARTNERS

COL's partners in Nauru include:

- Department of Education
- USP Nauru Campus

KEY CONTACTS

FOCAL POINT

Mrs Darrina Kun

Secretary for Education & Training
Department of Education

COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - JULY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- **37 teachers from Nauru trained to provide effective learner support in ODFL contexts.**
- **Ministry officials trained in ODL policy workshop**
- **Development of online learning resources for teachers: [ODL Course Catalogue](#), [National OER Collection Site](#), and [Online TVET Toolkit](#)**

In addition to COL's core activities, the **Partnership for Open Distance and Flexible Learning (ODFL) in the Pacific** is a 5-year project (2020–2025) funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (MFAT) to support enhancing capacity and efficiency of education sectors in the Pacific through greater use of innovative delivery mechanisms and technology. COL, together with the Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development (PACFOLD), is implementing the project in the nine Commonwealth countries in the Pacific (Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu). <https://pacificpartnership.col.org>

BUILDING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

COL is working with governments to use gender responsive ODL policies and strategies for increasing equitable access to quality learning.

COL initiated several high-level panels on Climate Change and Education to support Member countries in advancing climate action (through policy, capacity, resources and research). This resulted in the [Transforming Education for Climate Action: Report to Commonwealth Ministers of Education](#), published in August 2022.

Between July and October 2022, three nominated Ministry officials from Nauru participated in two workshops on policy and planning for ODFL.

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

COL is supporting partner institutions to strengthen its ODL systems and capacities for providing quality education and training.

Nauru contributes curated OER videos to the Pacific Regional Video on Demand (VOD) Channel, which was established by COL in response to partners in the Pacific Island States. It's designed to ensure that all resources are downloadable even in low-bandwidth environments and can be hosted on local servers. <https://pacificregionalchannel.org/>

Two teachers from Nauru participated in COL's MOOC on Digital Skills for OER Sharing that was offered in September 2021.

Fourteen teachers from Nauru participated in COL's MOOC on Quality Assurance for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning that was offered in February 2023.

USP launched the Semester Zero programme in January 2022 to ensure a smooth transition of future students to university life. This programme was implemented using a COL-hosted Moodle platform.

Launched in September 2022, the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Course Catalogue offers training courses for teachers in the Pacific on various aspects of ODL. This catalogue was designed in a way that Ministries and educational institutions can have admin access and share any relevant courses for their own country. <https://www.odlcatalogue4pacific.org/>

The Nauru OER Collection Site provides resources for teachers that can be used or adapted for their teaching. <https://nru.oer4pacific.org/>

COL developed the online Pacific TVET Toolkit, an open-source platform to support continuous professional development of TVET practitioners in the Pacific, including Nauru. <https://pacifictoolkit.col.org>

IMPROVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

COL continues to provide learners, especially from disadvantaged groups, access to learning and resources for improved livelihoods

A kitchen garden app developed for and by Nauruans, with COL support, was launched in the presence of the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Environment, Hon Rennie Gadabu. This app, which is unique to Nauru, is expected to lead to diverse food production and better nutrition.

The MOOC on 'Assessment Skills for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning' re-offered by the University of South Pacific (USP) in March 2023 had 352 enrolments, including one from Nauru. [Apr2023]

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

In March 2022, a **webinar on the TVET Toolkit** was held with one practitioner from Nauru registered.

A **survey on ICT access and use in the Pacific** was conducted in April 2022 with people in the Pacific, in which one person from Nauru participated. The purpose of the study was to better understand the local needs to ensure an effective and appropriate delivery of a learning program in the Pacific.

At the 21st Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM) in April 2022, the Minister of Education from Nauru shared experiences and offered insights for future best practices at the **ministerial roundtable on lessons learned from COVID-19** that was moderated by COL's President & CEO.

PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

ICT use and access in the Pacific: Emerging Perspectives <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5252>

Improving the Efficacy of Mentorship with an Open Education Ecosystem
<http://hdl.handle.net/11599/4065>

Integrating OER in Teaching: A Guide for Teachers in the Pacific <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/4014>

Reversioning OER: A Guide for Teachers in the Pacific <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/4015>

Guide to QA of ODFL Provision in the Pacific <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5443>



4710 Kingsway, Suite 2500
Burnaby, BC V5H 4M2
Canada

Tel: +1.604.775.8200
Fax: +1.604.775.8210
E-mail: info@col.org
Web: www.col.org