



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

COUNTRY REPORT
2021-2023 | **CARIBBEAN**
& **AMERICAS**



Dominica

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 countries' efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG4. It's supporting governments and institutions in the Caribbean 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 (Caribbean: Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago) 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 (SfW); Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) and GIRLS Inspire.

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

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

INTRODUCTION

Dominica is a small state of the Commonwealth in the Caribbean with a population of about 73,000 ([World Bank](#), 2022). Known for its unspoilt natural beauty, the island nation is a developing economy with a dominant agricultural base.

COL's work in Dominica is primarily in the areas of higher education through the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) network and technology-enabled learning. Learners from Dominica are also participating in COL's free, open online courses and benefitting from other available resources.

PARTNERS

COL's partners in Dominica include:

- Ministry of Education, Human Resource Planning, Vocational Training and National Excellence
- Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica (CREAD)

KEY CONTACTS

FOCAL POINT

Mrs Chandler Hyacinth
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education,
Human Resource Planning,
Vocational Training and
National Excellence

COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - MAY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- One TVET institution has developed its institutional ODL strategy and action plan.

BUILDING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

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

COL supported the attendance of members from all 12 commonwealth Caribbean countries to a meeting with Caribbean Association of National Training Authorities (CANTA) to review, validate and approve the Quality Assurance Criteria and Guidelines for the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) (2023), as well as engage the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) with the

aim of approving the reviewed Quality Assurance Criteria and Guidelines for the CVQ. Participants came from ministries, TVET councils, and National Training Agencies. [May 2023]

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

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

The Caribbean Association of National Training Agencies (CANTA) collaborated with COL and UNESCO-UNEVOC to build the capacity of TVET practitioners to utilise appropriate open and distance learning (ODL) approaches and technology for an inclusive TVET delivery. TVET institutions from Dominica participated in the project in 2021-2022. The Centre where Adolescents Learn to Love and Serve (CALLS) developed their institutional ODL strategy and action plan.

IMPROVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

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

48 learners from Dominica enrolled for the self-paced “**Introduction to Artificial Intelligence**” course offered through COL’s VUSSC Moodle platform which ended in February 2023.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The **Regional Focal Points Meeting for the Caribbean** was held in Kingston, Jamaica from 30-31 January 2023.

PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

Report on the Regional Focal Points Meeting – Caribbean <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5288>



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