



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

**COUNTRY REPORT**  
2021-2023 | **AFRICA**

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**Tanzania**

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

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**The Commonwealth of Learning (COL)** is focused on adding value to African member countries' efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG4. It's supporting the governments and institutions of Africa 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 Africa (Botswana, The Gambia, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia and Seychelles) 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 African member country. These are:

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

## INTRODUCTION

Tanzania is located in East Africa and has a population of over 65 million ([World Bank](#), 2022).

COL's work in Tanzania is in the areas of lifelong learning for farmers, GIRLS inspire - gender equality and women's empowerment through skills development for livelihoods, technology-enabled learning (TEL) and skills for work and also benefits from programmes offered by the Southern African Development Community's Centre for Distance Education (SADC-CDE), COL's regional centre. Learners from Tanzania are also participating in COL's free, open online courses and accessing other available resources.

## PARTNERS

COL's partners in Tanzania include:

- Ministry for Education, Science and Technology
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Bank of Tanzania
- Institute of Adult Education
- Kiota Women's Health and Development
- Matumaini Mapya
- Mbeya University of Science and Technology
- Open University of Tanzania (OUT)
- Youth Aid Education and Possible Changes Organization (YAPO)

## KEY CONTACTS

### COL FOCAL POINT

**Dr. Michael Wilfred Ng'umbi**

Director, Institute of Adult Education  
Open University of Tanzania

## COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - MAY 2023

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **3,110 women and girls have been trained.**

## BUILDING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

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

372 policymakers and government officials were trained and sensitised in gender equality, gender-sensitive practices and the prevention of GBV in Tanzania. The various activities that have taken place include:

- 40 (20M, 20F) trained on gender equality and gender-based violence (GBV). [Feb 2022]
- YAPO in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development Gender, Women and Special Groups, convened a workshop to strengthen the capacity of policymakers on

changing discriminatory social norms through policy and legislative frameworks and engaging local community members: 32 (16M/16F). [Jul 2022]

## STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

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

Institutional Employability Framework developed by the Open University of Tanzania, with COL support.

GIRLS Inspire supports its partners with capacity building in various areas. Some of these activities include:

- 19 (9M, 10F) staff members trained in gender concepts and gender-sensitive practices. [Jul2022]
- 16 (8M, 8F) staff members trained in gender equality, addressing GBV and responding to grassroots advocacy.
- GIRLS Inspire initiative pre-conference workshop took place at PCF10 with 21 (9m, 12f) participants from 10 countries (Bangladesh, India, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, Canada), 15 attended in person and 6 joined online. The workshop's objective was to develop a Strategy for Digitization of Learning Resources focusing on Climate and Environmentally Responsive Sustainable Livelihoods and Food Security, through a collective discussion on: 1) Improving learning resources using COL's quality standards and aligning it to climate change and environmental protection; 2) Digitisation of the improved learning resources.; 3) Scaling up the use of digitised learning resources for sustainable livelihood and food security. [Sep2022-O2.1]
- Three two-day workshops on Collaborative Advocacy for return to school for teenage mothers were held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: 30 (14M/16F). [Apr 2023]

COL's Skills for Work initiative, in collaboration with the Kenya Technical Trainers College (KTTC), held a regional workshop on the use of virtual labs in TVET for practitioners from Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia that was held in July 2022. It provided 29 teachers with the necessary skills to incorporate internet-based experimentation in their practice. Learners in science and engineering will have remote access to a real-life simulation-based workshop environment providing them with a deep sense of involvement.

COL's Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) initiative has partnered with the Bank of Tanzania to issue microfinance business licenses to the Tanzania Producers Microfinance Public Limited Company. [Jan2022]

About 60 teachers have participated in COL MOOCs on inclusive teaching and learning (September 2022) and cybersecurity training for teachers (November 2022).

Eight (5M/3F) staff members of the Institute of Adult Education were trained in developing quality ODL study materials using open educational resources in a workshop in December 2022.

## REGIONAL CENTRE: SADC-CDE

26 senior officials comprising representatives from Universities participated in the high-level workshop on developing effective OER policies for the SADC region, from 20-21 June 2022 in Gaborone.

In February 2022, a seminar organised on "The Future of open and distance e-learning (ODEL) in higher education institutions in the 21st Century: Challenges and opportunities" to sensitise the institution staff at 16 SADC member states (including 11 Commonwealth countries).

## IMPROVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

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

COL's GIRLS Inspire initiative is operational in Tanzania and is supporting Youth Aid Education and Possible Changes Organization (YAPO) in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment through skills development for livelihoods and community sensitisation. To date, a total of 3,110 women and girls have been trained; 2,830 have accessed financial resources such as loans; 2,360 have opened bank accounts; 1,032 have accessed internship opportunities and 7,221 Community members have been reached through advocacy events conducted. Activities include:

- 1,040 women and girls were linked to services and resources, farm and agricultural technology; and 96 (20m, 76f) accessed open schools or were brought back to school with the readmission policy. [May 2022]
- 512 women and girls accessed credit from institutional services for livelihood and self-employment; 528 accessed saving schemes; and 300 (150 boys, 150 girls) accessed social cash transfers for school dropouts in Tanzania. [May 2022]
- 74 awareness-raising sessions, meetings and public campaigns. [Jul 2022]
- 92 advocacy sessions with community members on issues such as Human rights, GE, protective legislations, available legal services, tools to deal with rights violations environmental issues and climate change, amongst others. [Feb 2022]
- 1,499 (707M, 797F) community members sensitized on gender equality. [Feb 2022]
- 64 advocacy sessions with community members on issues such as Human rights, GE, protective legislations, available legal services, tools to deal with rights violations, environmental issues and climate change, amongst others.
- 1,040 women and girls opened bank accounts in Tanzania.
- 448 women and girls trained by YAPO in context-specific courses, including sustainable agricultural practices, tailoring, embroidery, food processing, and ICT courses. Also, women and girls were trained in e-commerce, financial literacy, and small business management, as well as in human rights, legislation, and leadership skills. YAPO also trained 125 men and boys to advocate for Gender Equality and prevent Gender Based Violence. [Jul 2022-I1]
- 550 women and girls accessed group savings/loans with friendly conditions to enable them to prosper in their economic activities. Moreover, 320 (160m, 160f) boys and girls accessed social cash transfers for school dropouts. [Jul2022-STO3.2]

- YAPO established linkages with the private sector for the apprenticeship of women and girls, allowing 550 to access internships. [Jul2022-O3.2]
- YAPO established savings and credit schemes where 1,000 women were grouped to mobilize savings and lending skills and gain access to institutional finance services for livelihood or self-employment. Moreover, YAPO supported the retention of 100 (41M, 59F) children in formal education through the provision of school uniforms. [Jan2023]

**COL's Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) has partnered with Matumaini Mapya (MM)** in building the social, human and financial capital of farming communities, especially women, through the use of ODL and appropriate technologies for improved livelihoods security and environmental sustainability. Activities include:

- meetings to raise awareness of the Tanzania Producers Financial Company (TAPFICO) were attended by 234 (131 female and 103 male) people. [Oct 2021]
- through 5 seminars/meetings, trained 154 shareholders (52 female and 102 male) on corporate and financial literacy. MM has also aided in selling 463 TAPFICO shares which have been purchased by 23 females, 27 males, and 20 groups. [Oct 2021]
- an additional 32 (16 female and 16 male) individuals and one group bought 367 TAPFICO shares valued at TZS 3,310,000 (\$1,892 CAD). [Nov 2021]
- meetings conducted with stakeholders from the Ministry of Agriculture, Bank of Tanzania, commercial banks, and other financial institutions of the L3F model.
- to facilitate the establishment of the **Learning Innovation Development Platform (LINDEP)** on Beans, MM established new partnerships with 5 Local Government Authority (LGA): Karagwe District Council, Kasulu District Council, Bukombe District Council, Sengerema District Council, and the Kahama Municipal Council. [Jan 2023]
- established 486 demonstration plots and used them for training 3,889 new farmers from the Districts of Bukoba, Karagwe, and Muleba on 12 good banana agronomical practices. 399 demo farmers were recruited, who trained their fellow adopter farmers on good banana agronomical practices using their respective demonstration plots in Tanzania. [Mar 2023]
- 3,000 pieces of fliers (booklets) and posters on good banana agronomical practices were developed, produced and distributed to farmers for training while attending on-site training sessions and while at home. [Mar 2023]

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Daphina Mabagala from OUT was invited to participate in the **4th Pan-Commonwealth Training Programme on Women and Leadership in ODL** in August 2022, in Penang, Malaysia, including an online workshop earlier in the year. The workshop theme was 'Women Leaders: Shaping the future for a sustainable world' with three sub-themes-Leadership, ICTs and Climate Change.

COL's Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning is held triennially and is co-hosted with different partners in different regions of the Commonwealth. Two delegates from Tanzania registered for the **Tenth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF10)**, the first-ever hybrid Forum held in Calgary, Canada from 14-16 September 2022. Both Gosbert Kaserwa,

Matumaini Mapya and Salim Mpanda, YAPO were sponsored by COL and invited to also attend COL pre-conference meetings for GIRLS Inspire and L3F.

The **Regional Focal Points Meeting for Africa and Europe** was held in Seychelles from 20-21 February 2023. Official representatives from 20 Commonwealth countries in the region participated in the two-day meeting, including Dr Michael Wilfred Ng'umbi.

## PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

**COVID-19 and Technology Enhanced Teaching in Higher Education in sub-Saharan Africa: A Case of the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania** <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/3903>

**Report on the Regional Focal Points Meeting - Africa and Europe**  
<http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5316>



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