



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

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



Grenada

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

Grenada is a small state of the Commonwealth in the Caribbean with a population of over 125,000 ([World Bank](#), 2022).

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

PARTNERS

COL's partners in Grenada include:

- Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, and Culture

KEY CONTACTS

FOCAL POINT

Mr Kade DeCoteau
Information Technology Officer
Ministry of Education, Youth,
Sports, and Culture

COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - MAY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- Guidelines and Criteria for the Caribbean Vocational Qualification developed.
- 5,385 learners from Grenada have enrolled with 1,847 certificates being issued through the Skills Online programme.

BUILDING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

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

Grenada developed Guidelines and Criteria for the Caribbean Vocational Qualification with COL support. [Jan2023]

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.

Guidelines and Criteria for the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) were developed at a workshop held in Grenada in October 2022. 13 government officials participated. Eight participants reported improved knowledge of new approaches to quality assuring TVET because of this workshop.

Dr Sanjaya Mishra, COL Director: Education, presented “Flexible Learning in a Digital Age: Towards a Micro-credential Framework” at the 2nd Ministerial Summit of the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) held in Grenada in November 2022.

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IMPROVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

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

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

COL’s partnership with Coursera, Udemy and Grow with Google continues to offer nominated learners this vast range of courses - a pathway for lifelong learning and growth and enhancing skills for employment and entrepreneurship. Since July 2021, 5,385 learners from Grenada have enrolled with 1,847 certificates being issued.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

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 Grenada 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. They include Kade DeCoteau, Ministry

of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture and Nicole Welsh, The University of the West Indies Open Campus.

The **Regional Focal Points Meeting for the Caribbean** was held in Kingston, Jamaica from 30-31 January 2023. COL's Focal Point, Mr Kade DeCoteau from the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, participated. The CEO of the Jamaica Teaching Council was also present for many of the sessions as an observer. The meeting set out to update Focal Points on COL's work in the region and wider Commonwealth, to consult with them on regional and national priorities and to discuss the role of education in promoting a green learning agenda. Many of the regional and national priorities identified by the Focal Points reflect those in COL's Strategic Plan 2021-2027. Common areas of concern included food security and training related to climate-smart agriculture; male underperformance and the need for pedagogies tailored to meet their needs; access to OER aligned with the national curriculum; the need to strengthen special needs and inclusive education; increased demand for TVET; and capacity building and technical support for institutions in ODL and digital pedagogies.

PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

Report on the Regional Focal Points Meeting – Caribbean (2023) <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5288>



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