



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

COUNTRY REPORT
2021-2023 | **PACIFIC**



Kiribati

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

Kiribati is a small state of the Commonwealth with a population of over 131,000 ([World Bank](#), 2022) spread over islands and atolls covering an immense expanse of ocean.

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

PARTNERS

COL partners in Kiribati include:

- Ministry of Education
- Kauma Adventist High School
- Kiribati Teachers College (KTC)
- USP Kiribati Campus

KEY CONTACTS

FOCAL POINT

Ms Lucy Kum-On
Principal
Kiribati Teachers College

COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - JULY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- **476 teachers from Kiribati trained to provide effective learner support in ODFL contexts.**
- **17 ministry officials from Kiribati trained in ODL policy workshop.**
- **Active TVET Project with Kiribati Teachers College**
- **Building technical resilience in response to natural disasters**
- **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, 17 nominated Ministry officials from Kiribati participated in two workshops on policy and planning for ODFL.

A survey on data resilience in education systems was conducted with the Ministry of Education, Kiribati in May 2022 to understand the data infrastructure and management system in response to natural disaster. In May 2023, COL received approval from the Ministry of Education and started working to support strengthening its data management systems in response to a natural disasters.

Starting in April 2023, COL offered a bi-weekly training for the ministry officials on how to customise the open courses for re-offering within a specific country context with mentor support. Two officials from Kiribati participated in training.

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

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

Seven courses developed and offered with 476 teachers from Kiribati trained to provide effective learner support in ODFL contexts:

- Open Educational Resources for Online Learning, July 2021 (2 teachers); November 2021 (2 teachers)
- Digital Skills for OER Sharing, September 2021 (46 teachers); November 2022 (83 teachers)
- Communication Skills for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning, January 2022 (40 teachers); June 2022 (62 teachers)
- Assessment Skills for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning, April 2022 (74 teachers)
- Empowered Digital Teacher for Online Learning, June 2022 (1 teacher)
- Learner Support for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning, November 2022 (30 teachers)
- Quality Assurance for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning, February 2023 (125 teachers)

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.

A survey on ICT access and use in the Pacific was conducted in April 2022 with people in the Pacific, in which 70 people from Kiribati 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.

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 Kiribati OER Collection Site provides resources for teachers that can be used or adapted for their teaching. This site was contextualised in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Kiribati to reflect the national curriculum. <https://kir.oer4pacific.org/>

COL is supporting the Ministry of Education in teacher capacity development in Open Educational Resources (OER) and digital learning at Kiribati Teachers College. The aim is to achieve incremental digitisation and delivery of teacher training and professional development. Activities include:

- Capacity for development of audio based OER is expected to improve the delivery of teacher training and teaching, especially for those in remote locations.
- A blended training programme has been designed and is under implementation at the college. In the programme, teachers are taking the following online courses:
 - Understanding Open Educational Resources (LearnOER)
 - Mobile Learning with Multimedia (MLM)
 - Teaching Mathematics with Technology (TMT)
 - Cybersecurity Training for Teachers (CTT)
- A 3-part onsite workshop series is planned to build the capacity of teacher mentors and provide in-person support to participating teachers.
- Kiribati Teachers College hosted a 2-day blended workshop on Innovative Teaching and Learning with OER, attended by 102 teachers and teacher educators (23M/79F) from March 31 – April 1, 2023.

COL provides tuition scholarships to learners in the Pacific for USP's Legislative Drafting Programme which was developed with COL support. A total of three learners from Kiribati have been awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Legislative Drafting. Graduates from this programme contribute to good governance in the region.

IMPROVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

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

COL is working with the Ministry of Education and Kauma Adventist High School to enhance the capacity of Technical and vocational education training (TVET) practitioners using the online Pacific TVET Professional Development Toolkit, which was developed by COL. <https://pacifictoolkit.col.org>

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 10 from Kiribati. [Apr2023]

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

In March 2022, a **webinar on the TVET Toolkit** was held with five practitioners and institutional leaders from Kiribati registered, with additional TVET institutions showing interest to become partners.

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 Fiji 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 Lucy Kum-On, Principal, Kiribati Teachers' College - Ministry of Education and Aberaam Tebitaki, Senior Lecturer, Kiribati Teachers College, Ministry of Education were sponsored by COL.

PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

Report of the Special Parallel Session: Strategies and Solutions for ODFL in the Pacific Region

<http://hdl.handle.net/11599/4534>

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>



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