



FOCUS ON GRENADA

2021-24



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

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1,802 learners from Grenada have enrolled in 7,484 courses with 2,635 certificates issued through the Skills Online programme.
- The Guidelines and Criteria for the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) were reviewed and finalised in two meetings held in 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. We support the governments and institutions in the use of appropriate, affordable technologies to improve and expand learning for sustainable development. During its current plan (2021-27), 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 currently 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 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 complements the three pathways of change COL is focusing on in achieving impact for each member country. These are:

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

KEY CONTACTS

FOCAL POINT

Mr Kade DeCoteau
Information Communication Technology (ICT) Officer
Ministry of Education

PARTNERS

COL's partners in Grenada include:

- Ministry of Education

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.

COL's Director (Education) made a presentation on "Flexible Learning in a Digital Age: Towards a Microcredential Framework" at the 2nd Ministerial Summit of the Caribbean Examination Council held in St George's, Grenada, on 11 November 2022.

Strengthening TVET Systems in the Caribbean

COL and the Caribbean Association of National Training Authorities (CANTA) have been collaborating to enhance technical and vocational education and training (TVET) across the Caribbean. Beginning in late 2022, a workshop was held to equip leaders with skills for integrating ODL into institutional strategies. This activity led to the revision of guidelines for awarding the Caribbean Vocational

Qualification, discussed in subsequent workshops held in Barbados and Grenada. COL joined members of the Executive Committee of CANTA in a meeting held in St George's, Grenada, from 7 – 8 November 2023 and deliberated strategies for developing, piloting and scaling courseware materials for use in the CANTA member countries, based on the two occupational standards for the blue economy sector. Mr Elvis Morain, Grenada's Permanent Secretary for Education, emphasised the importance of recognising the currency of TVET. He also highlighted the necessity of upskilling Grenada's workforce to align with the nation's requirements. Regional organisations such as the CARICOM as well as the International Labour Organisation joined in some of the meetings. These collaborative efforts aim to transform the education system, diversify qualifications, and upskill the workforce from primary to tertiary levels, aligning with global trends and technological advancements. Besides providing technical advice, COL also supported the participation of experts from the 12 Caribbean 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 partnership with Coursera, Udemy and Grow with Google offered opportunities for learners in Grenada to access wide range of courses leading to a pathway for lifelong learning and growth, enhancing skills for employment and entrepreneurship. Since July 2021, 1,802 learners from Grenada have enrolled in 7,484 courses with 2,635 certificates issued through COL's Skills Online programme.

Two-hundred-four learners from Grenada have enrolled in the self-paced "Introduction to Artificial Intelligence" course offered through COL's VUSSC Moodle platform.

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 and Nicole Welsh, The University of the West Indies Open Campus.

COL's Regional Focal Points Meeting for the Caribbean was held in Kingston, Jamaica from 30–31 January 2023. COL's Focal Point, Mr Kade DeCoteau, participated in the event. Common areas of concern in the region identified by the participants include food security and training related to climate-smart agriculture, male underperformance in education, pedagogies tailored to meet their needs, access to OER aligned with the national curriculum, strengthening special needs and inclusive education, demand for TVET, and capacity building and technical support for institutions in ODL and digital pedagogies.

COL's partnership with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States has led to improved capacity among 49 educators to evaluate, select and use assistive technologies as instructional support for students with special needs. To mark the successful completion of the training, a graduation ceremony for these educators was held in June 2023 where participants from six Caribbean nations and territories (British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and The Grenadines), gathered with leaders and senior members of their Ministries for this virtual ceremony.

The Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in

Tertiary Education (CANQATE), in partnership with the University of Trinidad and Tobago, held its 19th annual meeting in October 2023, attended by approximately 200 quality assurance professionals in the region from academia, training agencies, and government ministries. COL's Vice President delivered a plenary on the impact of recent AI developments and senior academics from COL's VUSSC partner universities presented on post-pandemic QA recovery. The Honourable Nigel de Freitas, Acting President of Trinidad and Tobago and Senate President, stressed the urgency of workforce development for regional economic growth, highlighting the role of innovation.

COL and CANTA have been collaborating to enhance TVET across the Caribbean. Beginning in late 2022, COL hosted a workshop in Barbados to equip leaders with skills for integrating ODL into institutional strategies. This activity led to the revision of guidelines for awarding the Caribbean Vocational Qualification, discussed in subsequent workshops held in Barbados and Grenada. In a meeting in November 2023 in Grenada, COL and CANTA developed two new occupational standards for the blue economy sector and deliberated on scaling courseware materials across the region. Regional organisations such as the CARICOM as well as the International Labour Organisation joined in some of the meetings. These collaborative efforts aim to transform the education system, diversify qualifications, and upskill the workforce from primary to tertiary levels, aligning with global trends and technological advancements. Besides providing technical advice, COL also supported the participation of experts from the 12 Caribbean Commonwealth countries.

PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

Gender Profile 2023: Grenada <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5554>

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

Transforming Education for Climate Action: Report to Commonwealth Ministers of Education
<http://hdl.handle.net/11599/4068>



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