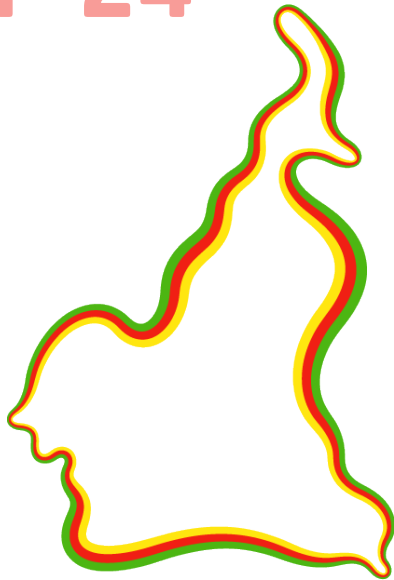




## FOCUS ON CAMEROON



# 2021-24



COL's work in Cameroon is in the areas of higher education, open schooling and lifelong learning for farmers. Learners from Cameroon are also benefitting from COL's free online courses and other openly available resources.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ICT in Education Policy and Strategic Framework for Basic Education in Cameroon has been finalised and adopted by the Minister of Basic Education in January 2022.
- The University of Buea (UB) is implementing COL's institutional employability framework.
- The Secretary of State, Ministry of Basic Education, attended PCF10 in Calgary, Canada (14 to 16 September 2022) and joined the Ministerial Roundtable.

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

Mrs Anne Oben  
Director, Commonwealth Department  
Ministry of External Relations

## PARTNERS

COL's partners in Cameroon include:

- Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MBSE)
- Ministry of External Relations
- Institute of Agricultural Research for Development
- University of Buea

## BUILDING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

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

### Strengthening policy action for impact

The Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MBSE), Cameroon, is exploring the potential of open schooling. COL organised an advocacy workshop on learning pathways for out-of-school youth in Cameroon for the staff of the MBSE and Employment and Vocational Training in Cameroon in December 2022 with 40 participants. In discussion with the MBSE, COL commissioned and published a report on Viable Learning Pathways Back into Schooling for Out-of-School Youths

in Cameroon in February 2023. This report explores the challenge of out-of-school children and youths in Cameroon and proposes the establishment of a virtual open school — Cameroon National Open School (CAMNOS) — that can provide a virtual backbone for both online and blended provision, with the latter making use of existing day schools as after-hours support centres.

The *ICT in Education Policy and Strategic Framework for Basic Education in Cameroon* was finalised and adopted by the Minister of Basic Education in January 2022.

## STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

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

### Integrating employability in courses at the University of Buea (UB)

UB has been implementing COL's employability framework. 25 faculty and staff from UB attended a virtual workshop on employability held from 28 February – 1 March 2022. Following this, the University developed an institutional framework for integrating employability into its courses. A further workshop trained 25 (13F/12M) staff on how to implement the framework. Five courses

have been revised and updated to include employability attributes. 80 learners have enrolled in these courses during the 2023 summer semester. 35 staff (20M/15F) of UB took part in the employability project dissemination meeting.

In January 2022, 26 faculty and staff of UB also received training on online assessment in distance education to further strengthen UB's capacity to leverage ODL for improved effectiveness.

## IMPROVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

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

COL partnered with the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development to strengthen the capacity of women vegetable farmers in the southwest region of Cameroon. In 2023, 75 messages were developed on general cultivation of vegetables, pesticide alternatives and safety measures and sent out to all WhatsApp groups of farmers. Forty-one women from three different areas (Tombel 11, Ekona 18, and Tiko 12) attended training on the use and importance of ICT/ODL.

## 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. Four delegates from Cameroon 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, including Dr Kilo Vivian Asheri, Secretary of State, Ministry of Basic Education, Cameroon who also joined the Ministerial Roundtable. Three were sponsored by COL. Other participating delegates included Dominique Ndo Onambebe, Ministry of External Relations; Michael Nkwenti Ndongfack, University of Yaounde and Professor Yaro Loveline, UB.

COL's Regional Focal Points Meeting for Africa and Europe was held in Seychelles from 20–21 February 2023. Official representatives from 19 Commonwealth countries in the region participated in the two-day meeting, including Ms Anne Oben from Cameroon. In April 2024, government officials from Cameroon participated in a regional ODL policy development workshop convened by COL's regional centre, RETRIDOL.

Institutional delegates from Cameroon participated in the regional workshop for graduate employability framework convened by RETRIDOL in May 2024.

## PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

**Gender Profile 2023: Cameroon** <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5521>

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

**Viable Learning Pathways Back into Schooling for Out-of-School Youths in Cameroon**  
<http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5230>



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