



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

COUNTRY REPORT
2021-2023 | **AFRICA**



Kenya

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 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, 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 complement 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

Kenya is the third largest East African country, with a population of over 54 million ([World Bank, 2022](#)).

COL's work in Kenya is primarily in the areas of higher education, teacher education, lifelong learning for farmers, skills for work, and technology-enabled learning. Learners from Kenya are also benefitting from COL's free open online courses and other available resources.

PARTNERS

COL's partners in Kenya include:

- Ministry of Education
- Alupe University
- Cherish Kenya
- Egerton University
- Elimu Digital Media
- Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST)
- Kaimosi Friends University College
- Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development
- Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE)
- Kenya National Farmers Federation
- Kenya Technical Trainers College
- Kenyatta University
- Kibabii University
- Maasai Mara University
- Masai Technical Training Institute
- Moi University
- Nakuru Training Institute (NTI)
- Programme for Capacity Development in Africa
- Ramogi Institute of Advance Technology
- Siaya Seed Saaco
- Sigalagala National Polytechnic
- Technical Vocational Training Authority (TVETA)
- Ugunja Community Resource Centre
- University of Kabianga
- University of Nairobi

KEY CONTACTS

COL BOARD MEMBER

**Ambassador Dr Amina
Mohammed**

COL FOCAL POINT

Mr Darius Mogaka
Ministry of Education

COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - MAY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2,022 certificates have been issued to learners from Kenya under the Skills Online programme.
- COL's Institutional Employability Framework is being implemented by Egerton University and Kenyatta University with COL's support.
- Alupe University, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST), Kibabii University and Nakuru Training Institute (NTI) have implemented an institutional policy for technology-enabled learning.

BUILDING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

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

A new centre for improving the skills of technical trainers in Kenya and the region was inaugurated at the Kenya Technical Trainers College (KTTC). Named after Professor Asha Kanwar, COL President & CEO, this centre is equipped with advanced IT facilities and will help train technical and vocational trainers to integrate online and blended learning methods in their daily teaching processes. The inaugural event was presided over by Dr Margaret Mwakima, Permanent Secretary, State Department of Vocational and Technical Training, Ministry of Education. Senior teachers as well as officials from the Ministry were also present.

The 21st Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM) was organised in Nairobi, Kenya in hybrid mode from 27-28 April 2022. The COL delegation comprised the late Chair, COL Board of Governors Prof Narend Bajinath, Professor Kanwar, COL President and Dr Venkataraman Balaji, COL Vice President. It was a proud moment for COL, when in his inaugural keynote, HE President Uhuru Kenyatta referred to COL as 'an engine of innovation'! The theme of the Conference was 'Rethinking Education for Innovation, Growth and Sustainability post Covid-19'. COL President was invited to conceptualise and facilitate a ministerial Round Table on 'Lessons Learned from Covid-19 mitigation and recovery strategies' chaired by the Minister of Basic Education, South Africa, The Hon Angie Motshekga.

A baseline survey on the status of parental learning and engagement was conducted in late 2021 by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development, with support from COL. The survey focused on vulnerable families from Kilifi and Marsabit counties, which are located in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) regions of Kenya.

COL's partner, TVETA held a one-week workshop in June 2022, where a standard for TVET in ODL mode was reviewed and the development of a tool for accreditation of TVET centres was discussed. These centres are implementing Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) using Open, Distance and eLearning (ODEL) approaches. An action plan was developed to ensure that standards are maintained in the delivery of CBET amidst global disruptions to TVET systems due to climate change, migration, digitalisation, Covid-19 and Industry 4.0.

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

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

Kenyatta University (KU) submitted its final report in July 2021 on piloting Labster virtual labs simulation. 10 instructors were onboarded, and 115 students gained access to the Labster system. The report recommended that virtual labs be adopted by the University and be integrated into the core curricula.

A two-day workshop to sensitise STEM subject staff and faculty on virtual labs integration to blended teaching and learning was conducted for 16 Kenyatta University staff by CEMCA colleagues from January 12-13, 2022.

In February 2022, COL supported a workshop on employability for Egerton and Kenyatta universities. The two-day workshop was attended by 60 participants, 30 from Egerton and 30 from Kenyatta University. These participants consisted of academics, student counsellors, faculty deans, directors, and librarians. Of the 60 participants, 24 were females (13 from Kenyatta and 11 from Egerton) and 36 were males (17 from Kenyatta and 19 from Egerton). An Institutional Employability Framework has been developed by both Egerton University and Kenyatta University with COL's support.

In continuation of COL's partnership with Kenyatta University, COL President met with the deputy vice chancellor, deans, and directors of the university on 26 April 2022. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the role of education and skills in graduate employability as well as to enhance COL support for virtual labs and micro-certifications. These enhancements are aimed at further improving the quality of education at Kenyatta University, and increasing the employability of their students and the capacities of the faculty.

COL, in partnership with the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE), conducted a two-day in-person workshop on online facilitation from September 5-30, 2022. 31 participants (12M/19F) from various special needs teaching specialisations at KISE attended. [Aug 2022]

COL's Teacher Education initiative organised a hybrid pre-PCF10 workshop that introduced participants to concepts and models for teacher training at scale, including COL strategies and models using open, distance and technology-enabled learning. The event was attended by 19 participants representing 12 different institutions in The Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Trinidad & Tobago. Discussions focussed on a range of innovations for teacher development in low-income and other disadvantaged communities. These included the use of massive open online courses (MOOCs), radio and podcasts to reach more teachers, and having the assistance of language translators and assistive technologies and other offline resources to improve the quality of learning resources.

COL supported the development of curriculum-based video content as part of a COVID school closure response and then supported an advocacy and review outreach pilot. Following a formal evaluation, it was decided not to continue with the outreach project although views of the video lessons created continued with over 200,000 views in the first 12 months.

Elimu, a Canadian-based charity working in Kenya, developed Girl-inclusive content for STEM and IT learning to combat the negative stigmas girls are facing in society by developing more positive girl-friendly teaching approaches in the classroom. The content was introduced into classrooms through teacher training at Elimu's Offline eLearning pilot sites targeting 30 teachers in three schools and 477 students.

Over 1,000 teachers in Kenya signed up for COL MOOCs on inclusive teaching and learning and cybersecurity training for teachers.

Masai Mara University was commissioned to improve Masaai Girls' completion and transition rates by updating and aligning TESSA OER to the Kenya primary school curriculum and developing a mobile app for teachers and learners to access the OER.

Alupe University, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST), Kibabii University and Nakuru Training Institute (NTI) have implemented an institutional policy for technology-enabled learning (TEL), with COL support. Ramogi Institute of Advance Technology and Sigalagala National Polytechnic have submitted drafts of their strategic plan for TEL. Support to the University of Kabianga is underway with 31 (17M/14F) academics participating in a workshop on "Policy Development for TEL", which ran in May 2023.

COL's Skills for Work is focused on developing innovative models that can lead to opportunities for improved livelihoods in Kenya.

- Second cohort of training in Kenya saw 108 (41F/67M) using COL OER was completed in October 2021. The certificates bear the KTTC, TVETA, MOE and COL logos. [Nov 2021]
- 30 TVET trainers in Kenya were trained in Special Needs TVET Institutions. [Apr 2022]
- Kenya Technical Trainers College (KTTC) hosted a regional workshop on the use of virtual labs in TVET for practitioners from Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia was held in July 2022 and 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. The workshop was launched by Dr Margaret Mwakima, Principal Secretary, Department of Vocational and Technical Training (VTT), Ministry of Education.
- 95 trainers/subject matter experts were trained in the COL model of Skills for Work and 67 (47M/20F) institutional staff were successfully trained in the Leading Change for Technology-Enabled TVET programme. [Jul 2022]
- 18 (9F/9M) TVETA staff in Kenya completed the Quality Assurance of Blended and Online Learning Online Course. 5 (1F/4M) TVETA staff completed COL's Quality assurance for open distance and flexible learning (Part 1) course offered online in Kenya through the Pacific Centre for Flexible & Open Learning for Development. [Mar 2023]
- 7 (4F/3M) master trainers at the Kenya School of TVET (KSTVET) completed a Training of Trainers (TOT) for pedagogical upskilling of the master craftsman in the informal sector. [Mar2023]
- 46 TVET trainers (17F/29M) from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA), Kenya participated in a virtual Staff Sensitisation Workshop on the ODeL Standard and ODeL Accreditation Tool in February 2023.

- 23 participants (16M/7F) from the Kenya Technical Trainers College, National Industrial Training Authority and Kenya National Federation of Jua Kali Associations took part in a self-paced TOT for pedagogical upskilling of master craftspersons in October 2022.
- COL in collaboration with the Namibian College of Open Learning (NAMCOL) conducted a workshop to validate the competency framework and standard for a blended TVET trainer; developing learning outcomes for COL's exemplar course for a blended TVET trainer, and benchmarking for the establishment and operationalisation of ODeL centres. The workshop was attended by 11 (6M/5F) key TVET trainers from various African institutions, including KSTVET.
- In April 2023, staff at TVETA completed COL courses on Quality Assurance of Blended and Online Learning (18 participants) and the Quality Assurance for Open Distance and Flexible Learning (Part 1) offered online through the Pacific Centre for Flexible & Open Learning for Development (5 participants).

Two Special Needs teachers successfully completed the six-week online train-the-trainers course for disability practitioners developed through COL's VUSSC initiative [Feb 2023]

COL conducted three two-day workshops on collaborative advocacy for the return to school of teenage mothers in Busia, Kenya for 26 (12M/14F) staff members of partner organisations and their collaborators. [Apr 2023]

A 5-day workshop on ODeL policy development was held at the University of Nairobi with 30 staff from April 17-21, 2023.

IMPROVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

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

60 education officers, teachers, and parents from Kilifi and Marsabit counties participated in a stakeholder engagement workshop conducted by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development with support from COL in October 2021. The workshop discussions, which were led by officials from KICD, centred on the current Basic Education Curriculum Framework (BECF) in Kenya and the practice of parental involvement for its successful implementation, especially among families living in the ASAL regions. Participants also observed that while several cultural practices and environmental conditions placed women at a disadvantage, they were typically more present in the lives of their children.

COL supported the second run of the Inclusive Teaching and Learning MOOC offered jointly with the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE) that attracted 2,076 (1,000M/1,076F) participants from 38 countries, including 13 non-commonwealth nations.

COL's Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) has partnered with Cherish Kenya, Siaya Seed Sacco and Ugunja Community Resource Centre 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.

- 476 farmers registered to plant Soya and were linked to 4 buyers who committed to pay kshs 75 per kg. [Jan 2023]
- 1,109 farmers joined the learning platform.[Jan 2023]
- Siaya Sacco and the Siaya County Government through the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries held a Soya Bean value chain actors meeting with 43 farm producers to deliberate on ways of harnessing the potential of Soya. [Jan 2023]
- Siaya Seed Sacco further sensitised 202 farmers on soya bean production and the Poultry Innovation platform. [Jan 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, 2,022 certificates have been issued to learners from Kenya under the Skills Online programme.

83 (51M/32F) learners were enrolled in Blended Learning in the Classroom (BliC), a COL OER course that is now hosted at Kenya's National ODeL in TVET LMS. [Feb2023]

COL presented "Best Practices for Blended TVET: Moving Toward Centralized ODL Management", at the National Open Distance e-Learning (ODeL) in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) workshop, hosted by the Kenya School of TVET (KSTVET) in February 2023. In addition, seven (4F/3M) master trainers at KSTVET completed a "Training of Trainers (TOT)" for the pedagogical upskilling of master craftspersons in the informal sector.

46 TVET trainers (17F/29M) from TVETA participated in a virtual Staff Sensitisation workshop on the ODeL Standard and ODeL Accreditation Tool in February 2023.

467 students (257M/210F) enrolled in the 13 blended courses being offered at Alupe University.

COL's GIRLS Inspire initiative has partnered with the Rural Education and Economic Enhancement Program (REEP). Activities include:

- advocacy events conducted in 3 communities, namely, Siololo village, Kanjala village and Esibina village for men, boys and traditional leaders to become sensitive to gender equality, deconstruct dominant social norms that condone GBV and to change social norms and practices as well as end GBV. [Apr 2023]
- 483 women and girls trained in Human rights. [Apr 2023]
- Trained 12 male champions, 26 male traditional leaders and 9 female women traditional leaders and 109 men and boys from marginalised communities in human rights and protective legislations, information on legal services and tools to deal with violations of human rights, gender equality and to deconstruct dominant social norms that condone GBV. [Apr 2023]

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Dr Edwin Tarno from KTTC participated in the **High Level Roundtable for Vice Chancellors & Heads of ODL Institutions** from 29 - 30 July 2022 in Penang, Malaysia.

COL's Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning is held triennially and is co-hosted with different partners in different regions of the Commonwealth. **25 delegates from Kenya 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. 10 were sponsored by COL. Other delegates included:

1. Walter Buyu, eKRAAL Innovation Hub
2. Judy Wanjiku Gituku, Enlaitit
3. Abdifatah Mohamed Hassan, Technology Associates East Africa Limited
4. Jane Jebichii Jebichii, Technology Associates East Africa Limited
5. Samuel Juma, Kenya Institute of Special Education
6. Florence Kamonjo, University of Kabianga
7. Barbara Khavugwi, Maseno University eCampus
8. Fridah Kiambati, Kenya Institute of Special Education
9. Hannah Kiaritha, Kabete National Polytechnic
10. Florence Kisirkoi, Maasai Mara University in Kenya
11. Mursal Mohamed Mahamud, Technology Associates of East Africa Limited
12. Mohamed Dahir Mahat, Technology Associates East Africa Limited
13. Tom Mulati, Ministry of Education
14. Muthomi Nathaniel Murungi, Wisena Consultancy
15. Patricia Musomba, iHub Limited
16. David Ngatia, University of Kabianga
17. Stephen Norman Kiogora, Kenya Institute of Special Education
18. Mary Scholastical Odanga, Technology Associates East Africa Limited
19. Charles Ong'Ondo, Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development
20. Elizabeth Owino, Moi University
21. Victorine Owino, Siaya Seed Sacco
22. Daniel Sanoe, Kenya Institute of Special Education
23. Edwin Tarno, Kenya Technical Trainers College
24. Anne Wairimu Wanjiru, The Joseken Foundation
25. Pamella Were, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology

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 Mr Darius Mogaka.

PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

Practical Guide for WITED Chapters and Individual Champions for Increasing Girls' and Women's Participation in STEM-TVET (Ghana, Malawi, Kenya, The Gambia) <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/4001>

Report of the Benchmarking of Technology-Enabled Learning at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5225>

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



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