



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

COUNTRY REPORT
2021-2023 | **AFRICA**



Cameroon

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; 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

Cameroon is an African nation of almost 28 million people ([World Bank](#), 2022).

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, open online courses and other available resources.

PARTNERS

COL's partners in Cameroon include:

- Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB)
- Ministry of External Relations
- Ministry of Secondary Education (MINESEC)
- Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD)
- University of Buea (UB)
- University of Yaounde

KEY CONTACTS

COL FOCAL POINT

Mrs Anne Oben

Director, Commonwealth
Department, Ministry of
External Relations

COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - MAY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- ICT in Education Policy and Strategic Framework for Basic Education in Cameroon has been finalised and sent to the Minister of Basic Education for adoption.
- 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.
- An advocacy workshop for out-of-school youth in Cameroon was held for the staff of three ministries.

BUILDING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

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

COL held several discussions with Ministry staff on the potential of open schooling in Cameroon, and an in-country research study is currently underway.

An advocacy workshop pathway for out-of-school youth in Cameroon for the staff of the Ministries of Basic Education, Secondary Education and Employment and Vocational Training in Cameroon was organised in December 2022 with 40 participants.

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.

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

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

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

20 University of Buea (UB) staff participated in the “Online Course Design Workshop Using the Constructivist Approach”. 65% of them stated in a survey that they have applied what they learned in their work.

UB is implementing COL’s institutional employability framework.

A scoping review on the use of OER to build health literacy competencies in teacher training in Sub-Saharan Africa has been concluded, and a report has been submitted. As part of this review, an in-depth analysis of the needs in Cameroon was conducted.

IMPROVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

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

Learners from Cameroon are participating in COL’s free, open online courses.

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 Prof. Yaro Loveline, UB.

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 Ms Anne Oben.

PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

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

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



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