Skilling our youth: role of partnerships

Professor Asha Kanwar
COL President & CEO
Commonwealth Youth Ministers’ Meeting
13 September 2023
Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
Vancouver, 1987
To help Commonwealth governments and institutions use technologies to improve and expand access to education and training
learning for sustainable development
PROGRAMME SECTORS

Education

Skills

Gender Equality
Leveraging new and existing technologies
Key Issues for Youth

• By 2025, 85 million jobs may be displaced but 97 million more jobs may emerge.

• Skills required for the emerging green and blue economies.

• Phenomenal developments in AI.

Youth Unemployment

Unemployment, youth total (% of total labor force ages 15-24), modeled ILO estimate

Source: data.worldbank.org, retrieved and compiled on 7 September 2023
The Namibian College of Open Learning

Offering the Bachelor of Arts in Youth and Community Development Online

“We’re exploring setting up our own Youth Association here in Namibia … I think we’re the groundbreakers.”

Oliver Mhuriro, BA: YCD Student

“Educating and developing people to work in the youth sector is vital to Namibia’s continued success”

NAMCOL President Dr Heroldt Murangi
Cyprus
Malta
Botswana
Eswatini
Lesotho
Maldives
Mauritius
Namibia
Seychelles

Connecting the Commonwealth
(32 small states)

Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago

Fiji
Kiribati
Nauru
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu
The Blue Economy: Youth Training and Career Opportunities

Collaborative Course Development
Seven competency-based courses that prepare learners for jobs in low carbon BE growth industries

Bluepreneurship
Aquaculture
Ocean Energy
Marine Biotechnology
COL’s efforts in this regard

- 30,151 enrolled (60% female)
- 10,505 passed (63% female)

Strategies:
- Tanzania: Formal bridging programme
- Malawi: Targeted enrolment
- Botswana: Targeted learner support
- Nigeria: Community engagement: informal to formal learning

General:
- Recruitment of girls
- Gender responsive curriculum and content
- Gender responsive monitoring and intervention
Out-of-school youth in a remote fishing village graduate
Skilling and re-skilling

COL has admitted over 350,742 youth of the Commonwealth to gain skills for employability and entrepreneurship.
GIRLS Inspire
126,895 trained

BANGLADESH | KENYA | MALAWI | MOZAMBIQUE | NAMIBIA | PAKISTAN | PAPUA NEW GUINEA | SOLOMON ISLANDS | SRI LANKA | UGANDA
“My customer base and revenues have increased and I have regained confidence. I am giving back to my community by training youth, women and people with disabilities equipping them with digital literacy skills because these skills help us change our life for the better.”

Martine Benemariya, Rwanda
Skills Training for Youth

- 829 youths from Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu receiving training in skills development.

- Post-training survey results were positive. 93% of youths who attended the ‘Starting Own Business’ training felt they have improved their employability skills.
3 Courses on COL’s Moodle instance

Capability-building

Review of the Guidelines & Criteria for the Caribbean Vocational Qualification

Institutional strategies and action plans

- Barbados
- Dominica
- Jamaica
- Saint Lucia
- St Kitts & Nevis
Sustainability and Resilience

- Learning leads to livelihoods and resilience
- Collaboration rather than competition
- Use of appropriate technologies critical
Even with AI, the world will still need...

**Blue collar skills**

Technical, physical, spatial, time management, teamwork and safety

**Skills relating to empathy**

Active listening, emotional intelligence, communication, cultural competence, patience and tolerance, and problem solving

**Skills with Creativity and Innovation**

complex problem solving, adaptability, curiosity, open mindedness, collaboration and entrepreneurship
Three Key Literacies

Human  Data  Technological

Thank you