



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

COUNTRY REPORT
2021-2023 | **ASIA**



Singapore

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 states' efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG4. It's supporting the governments and institutions of the Commonwealth 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 (Brunei Darussalam and Maldives) 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 member state in the Commonwealth. These are:

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

INTRODUCTION

COL works in two sectors — Education and Skills — with Gender and Technology-Enabled Learning as cross-cutting themes. COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies — in some cases, all five.

KEY CONTACTS

FOCAL POINT

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REGIONAL CENTRE

The Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) is located in New Delhi, India and was established to promote cooperation and collaboration in the creation and use of multiple media resources for Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and skills development in the Commonwealth countries of Asia. Its activities revolve around COL's Strategic Plan 2021-27, but at the same time, CEMCA retains its regional focus, considering the challenges and requirements of Asian Commonwealth countries.

CEMCA's Advisory Council meets annually and functions as an advisory body on CEMCA's affairs and is responsible for broad policy formulation in the programme areas. The Council meets once a year, and membership is rotated among the members in Commonwealth Asia.

During the 2021-2027 plan, CEMCA will

1. Build the capacity of institutions to transition to online and blended learning;
2. Support gender-responsive skills development for livelihoods; and
3. Develop innovations in a range of technologies, from Community Radio to AI-based solutions for reaching the last mile.

COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - MAY 2023

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

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

Singapore is one of 10 countries highlighted in the COL/UNESCO publication “Smart Education Strategies for Teaching and Learning: Critical Analytical Framework and Case Studies”, published in September 2022.

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. The **Tenth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF10)**, the first-ever hybrid Forum, was held in Calgary, Canada from 14-16 September 2022.

The annual **Advisory Council meeting of CEMCA** was held in Delhi on 26 December 2022 with members from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Maldives and Sri Lanka in attendance.

The **Regional Focal Point meeting for Asia** was held in New Delhi, India, on 27-28 December 2022. Representatives from six of eight Asian Commonwealth countries (Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Malaysia, Maldives and Sri Lanka) participated in the two-day meeting.

PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

Commonwealth Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) Annual Report: 2021-2022

<http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5301>

Blended Learning Policy: Templates for Higher Education Institutions in Commonwealth Asia (CEMCA) <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5319>

Handbook on Online Education in Commonwealth Asia (CEMCA)

<http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5259>

Smart Education Strategies for Teaching and Learning: Critical Analytical Framework and Case Studies <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/4464>

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) Achievement Report: July - November 2022 <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5345>

Report on the Regional Focal Points Meeting – Asia <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5228>



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