



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

COUNTRY REPORT
2021-2023 | **PACIFIC**



**Papua New
Guinea**

LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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 Pacific 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 the Pacific (Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) 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 Pacific member state. These are:

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

INTRODUCTION

The largest of the Pacific Island countries, Papua New Guinea has a population of over 10 million ([World Bank](#), 2022) but is still considered a small state of the Commonwealth.

COL's current work in Papua New Guinea is in the areas of skills for work, GIRLS Inspire, technology-enabled learning and tertiary education through the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) network. Learners from Papua New Guinea are also participating in COL's free, open online courses and benefitting from other available resources.

PARTNERS

COL partners in Papua New Guinea include:

- Department of Education, Flexible, Open and Distance Learning (FODE)
- Bougainville Youth in Agriculture
- Servants of St. Joseph
- University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG)

KEY CONTACTS

FOCAL POINT

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COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - JULY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- **137 teachers from Papua New Guinea trained to provide effective learner support in ODFL contexts.**
- **Active TVET Project with the National Department of Education, Papua New Guinea**
- **Skills and leadership training for youths in partnership with Bougainville Youth in Agriculture**
- **331 learners from Papua New Guinea have enrolled in 896 courses with 148 certificates being issued.**
- **Development of online learning resources for teachers: [ODL Course Catalogue](#), [National OER Collection Site](#), and [Online TVET Toolkit](#)**
- ***Policy on Vocational Education & Training Flexible Open Learning* developed by the Department of Education.**

In addition to COL's core activities, the **Partnership for Open Distance and Flexible Learning (ODFL) in the Pacific** is a 5-year project (2020–2025) funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (MFAT) to support enhancing capacity and efficiency of education sectors in the Pacific through greater use of innovative delivery mechanisms and technology. COL, together with the Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development (PACFOLD), is implementing the project in the nine Commonwealth countries in the Pacific (Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu). <https://pacificpartnership.col.org>

BUILDING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

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

COL initiated several high-level panels on Climate Change and Education to support Member countries in advancing climate action (through policy, capacity, resources and research). This resulted in the [Transforming Education for Climate Action: Report to Commonwealth Ministers of Education](#), published in August 2022.

A survey on data resilience in education systems was conducted with the Ministry of Education, Papua New Guinea in May 2022 to understand the data infrastructure and management system in response to natural disaster.

Between July and October 2022, 16 nominated Ministry officials from Papua New Guinea participated in two workshops on policy and planning for ODFL. Dr Janet Mondez, Deputy Principal Curriculum, Department of Education, made a presentation on behalf of the ministry, sharing Papua New Guinea's policy experience in ODFL.

The Department of Education has developed a Vocational Education & Training Flexible Open Learning Policy. [Jun 2023]

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

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

Study report on the [implementation of blended learning at UPNG](#) published in July 2021 which explores the readiness of its students towards blended learning. Additionally, the study reflects on the effectiveness of the training COL provided to the facilitators who described having positive teaching and learning experiences with blended learning.

Seven courses developed and offered with 137 teachers from Papua New Guinea trained to provide effective learner support in ODFL contexts.

- Open Educational Resources for Online Learning, July 2021 (11 teachers); November 2021 (10 teachers)
- Digital Skills for OER Sharing, September 2021 (48 teachers)

- Communication Skills for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning, January 2022 (2 teachers); June 2022 (1 teacher)
- Assessment Skills for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning, April 2022 (38 teachers)
- Empowered Digital Teacher for Online Learning, June 2022 (4 teachers)
- Learner Support for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning, November 2022 (9 teachers)
- Quality Assurance for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning, February 2023 (11 teachers)

A survey on ICT access and use in the Pacific was conducted in April 2022 with people in the Pacific, in which 70 people from Papua New Guinea participated. The purpose of the study was to better understand the local needs to ensure an effective and appropriate delivery of a learning program in the Pacific. Also with a nomination from the COL Focal Point, Mr Thomas Podarua, Assistant Secretary, ICT Division, Department of Education, participated in an in-depth interview.

COL is supporting the Department of Education, Flexible, Open and Distance Learning (FODE) to move provision from print to online using Moodle. FODE is planning to pilot the use of the online courses they have created. 21 staff members have been trained to develop course outlines and preliminary content for 13 school subjects.

Launched in September 2022, the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Course Catalogue offers training courses for teachers in the Pacific on various aspects of ODL. This catalogue was designed so Ministries and educational institutions can have admin access and share any relevant courses for their own country. <https://www.odlcatalogue4pacific.org/>

The Papua New Guinea OER Collection Site provides resources for teachers that can be used or adapted for their teaching. This site was contextualised in collaboration with the Department of Education to reflect the national curriculum. <https://png.oer4pacific.org/>

Papua New Guinea's National Department of Education, Technical and Vocational Education Training Division developed seven online modules for the National Certificate in Commercial Cookery for Vocational Education & Training (VET) based on the lessons learned from the TVET Online Toolkit that COL developed. [Apr2023]

IMPROVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

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

COL is working with the Department of Education to enhance the capacity of Technical and vocational education training (TVET) practitioners using the online Pacific TVET Professional Development Toolkit, which was developed by COL. The Technical and Vocational Education Training Division developed online modules for the National Certificate 1 in Commercial Cookery for Vocational Education & Training (VET) based on the lessons learned using the Toolkit. <https://pacifictoolkit.col.org>

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, 331 learners from Papua New Guinea have enrolled in 896 courses with 148 certificates being issued.

COL's GIRLS inspire initiative has partnered with Servants of St. Joseph (SSJ) in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment through skills development for livelihoods and community sensitisation. More than 150 women, girls and young men in Papua New Guinea have built skills to sustain themselves and their families [May2023]. COL has also contributed to building the capacity of SSJ in monitoring and evaluation, gender equality, project management and sustainable agriculture.

Through COL's partnership with Bougainville Youth in Agriculture, 500 youths from Papua New Guinea are expected to benefit from the Skills and Leadership Training for Youths Project. Training is to be offered on various topics that can link to employment opportunities, including Small Business Management, Personal Finance, Digital Marketing and Microfinance.

The MOOC on 'Assessment Skills for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning' re-offered by the University of South Pacific (USP) in March 2023 had 352 enrolments, including 17 from Papua New Guinea. [Apr2023]

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

In March 2022, a **webinar on the TVET Toolkit** was held with 15 practitioners and institutional leaders from Papua New Guinea registered, with additional TVET institutions showing interest to become partners. Ignatius Bawi, TVET Flexible and Open Learning Manager and Janet Gaima, Curriculum Officer for Flexible Open Learning, National Department of Education participated as a speaker to share their experiences in using the online Pacific TVET Professional Development Toolkit.

Regional workshop on Skills and Leadership training for youth, women and persons with disabilities was held in Fiji in August 2022, in partnership with PACFOLD. Two NGO representatives from Papua New Guinea participated to learn about the project and were invited to submit an action plan and proposal to COL.

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 Papua New Guinea 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. All were sponsored by COL to participate and included: Peter Kants, Department of Education; Ralph Mosiri, FODE, Department of Education; Anthony Rayappan, FODE, Department of Education and Janet Subagan-Mondez, FODE, Department of Education who also participated in the open schooling pre-conference workshop and a parallel session on ODFL in the Pacific.

PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

Impact of Technology-Enabled Learning on Student Learning Experiences and Teacher Pedagogic Practices at The University of Papua New Guinea <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/3886>

Report of the Special Parallel Session: Strategies and Solutions for ODFL in the Pacific Region <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/4534>

ICT use and access in the Pacific: Emerging Perspectives <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5252>

Improving the Efficacy of Mentorship with an Open Education Ecosystem <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/4065>

Integrating OER in Teaching: A Guide for Teachers in the Pacific <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/4014>

Reversioning OER: A Guide for Teachers in the Pacific <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/4015>

Guide to QA of ODFL Provision in the Pacific <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5443>



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