



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

COL in the Commonwealth

**2012–2015
New Zealand**

Acknowledgements

All COL Education Specialists and their Programme Assistants as well as CEMCA colleagues have contributed to the development of the country reports which make up the volume *COL in the Commonwealth: 2012-2015 Country Reports*. This country report is an excerpt from the volume. The following people are thanked in particular for their role in the design and publication of these reports.

Alena Kovar, Receptionist/Secretary

Alex Hennig, Consultant

Alicia Swinamer, Stakeholder Relations Manager

Denise Tremblay, Design/Production Coordinator

Georgina Montgomery, Consultant

Compilation and Coordination

Alexis Carr, Project Assistant

Direction and Editing

Professor Asha S. Kanwar, President and Chief Executive Officer

Foreword


COL in the Commonwealth: 2012-2015 Country Reports summarises COL's activities over the last three years (2012-2015) and captures what we have achieved in each Member State and across the Commonwealth.

This volume is the result of a collaborative process that began in 2011 with extensive partner consultations. Following these consultations, a *Country Action Plan* was developed to guide COL's work in each country. The reports contained in this volume describe the implementation of these plans and highlight COL's achievements during this three year plan.

The reports cover all Member States of the Commonwealth, showing not only what COL has done in developing countries but also how its work aligns with the international development priorities of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. The reports are grouped under four regions: Africa and the Mediterranean, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Each regional section contains a brief regional report as well as the reports for each country within that region. The Pan-Commonwealth section describes COL's Initiatives, under the two sectors: 'Education' and 'Livelihoods and Health'. The reports for this triennium categorise COL activities according to our five core strategies: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy, in order to better present how our work contributes to outcomes. 'COL in Action' highlights real life examples to illustrate how COL's work impacts on people, groups and institutions in developing countries.

Most of the initiatives that COL pursued during this triennium are showing demonstrable results in expanding and improving opportunities for education and training, building healthier communities, helping rural communities achieve greater prosperity, and contributing to skills development. As the external Impact Evaluation report states: 'COL has had a major impact on individuals including farmers...faculty members, institutional leaders in formal and non-formal learning, selected policy makers and educational administrators'(S. Murgatroyd with J. Tully, 2015). The external Outcome Evaluation concludes that 'all the Initiatives moved successfully forward, on time and within budget' (N. Kemp and G. Farrell, 2015). Both evaluations confirm that COL is highly respected and well regarded in the field.

The production of *COL in the Commonwealth: 2012-2015 Country Reports* was made possible through collective effort and collaboration. Partners on the ground have diligently provided updates to COL. COL staff have tracked and assessed results obtained from partners through a thorough monitoring and evaluation process. COL's advanced knowledge management systems have enabled us to capture information from numerous sources and synthesise this into the reports that make up this volume. I must particularly commend Alexis Carr for her diligent work in filtering the masses of raw data and converting them into a coherent and meaningful narrative.



Professor Asha S. Kanwar
President and Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth of Learning



NEW ZEALAND



CONTEXT

New Zealand is a major contributor to COL's budget and is represented on COL's Board of Governors. The country provides support and expertise to COL's initiatives in the Pacific region, as well as contributing to pan-Commonwealth activities. New Zealand continues to be a valued partner for COL in the Pacific region.



DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

- ▶ A regional focus on the Pacific
- ▶ Emphasise an outcome-based approach to schooling (instead of input-based), measuring attendance at schools (especially for those with disabilities), retention rates, success rates, professional development of teachers, the impact of teacher training, and gender equality
- ▶ In the post-school sector, focus on assisting Pacific nations with economic development by increasing the numbers of scholarships offered
- ▶ Provide training in practical, vocational and applied skills
- ▶ Collaborate with private and microfinance entities in agriculture for coffee, tapioca and vanilla plantations



OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL IN PRIORITY REGION

- ▶ Support provided for the Outer Islands Delivery Strategy in Kiribati
- ▶ A technical and vocational education and training (TVET) Flexible and Open Learning Unit established in Papua New Guinea
- ▶ COL Vocational Literacy open educational resources (OER) in use in 25 Rural Training Centres in Solomon Islands
- ▶ Draft open and distance learning (ODL) plan and 12 draft ODL course units completed for five schools at Solomon Islands National University
- ▶ Ongoing support provided for open schooling in Tonga
- ▶ Vanuatu Open School established and twinning is underway
- ▶ Lifelong Learning for Farmers programme introduced in Papua New Guinea



COL'S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS

MDG Targets Addressed by COL

- ▶ Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications
- ▶ Promote gender equality and empower women
- ▶ Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- ▶ Address the special needs of small island developing states

COL's Work on the MDG Targets

- ▶ Policy development, training and materials provision in OER, ICTs, ODL and eLearning are underway
- ▶ The Lifelong Learning for Farmers model aims to empower women and improve the livelihoods and food security of participants
- ▶ Flexible and ODL approaches are seeking to address issues of accessibility that affect small island nations in terms of education



QUICK NOTES

COL Board:

- ▶ Dr Linda Sissons, CNZM, Chief Executive Officer of Wellington Institute of Technology is Chair of the Board of Governors of COL
- ▶ His Excellency the Rt Honourable Sir Lockwood Smith, KNZM, PhD, High Commissioner of New Zealand to the United Kingdom, Ghana, Ireland and Nigeria, represents New Zealand (New Zealand Aid Programme, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) on COL's Board of Governors.

COL Focal Point:

- ▶ Ms Miriam Freeman-Plume, New Zealand Aid Programme, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Notable Mentions:

- ▶ Ms Jenny Williams, Consultant, is a COL Honorary Advisor
- ▶ Dr Wayne Mackintosh of Otago Polytechnic is the COL-UNESCO Chair in OER
- ▶ Dr Caroline Seelig, Chief Executive of the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand is a COL Honorary Advisor

Areas of COL's Work with New Zealand:

- ▶ Open Schooling
- ▶ Higher Education
- ▶ Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
- ▶ Healthy Communities



HIGHLIGHTS

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 and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

PARTNERSHIPS

COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

- ▶ New Zealand Aid Programme, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- ▶ Te Kura Correspondence School
- ▶ Otago Polytechnic
- ▶ Open Polytechnic of New Zealand
- ▶ PACFOLD regional centre

CAPACITY

Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

- ▶ COMOSA Planning and Theory of Change workshop
- ▶ Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer's Certificate

OTHER

- ▶ Speeches and presentations
- ▶ Contributions to COL publications
- ▶ New Zealander experts engaged as professional resources



LOOKING FORWARD: 2015–2021

In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL identified relevant national priorities for New Zealand from the New Zealand International Development Policy Statement, including:

- ▶ Development of New Zealand's own region, the Pacific
- ▶ Pursuing of economic development through strengthening sectors that present economic opportunities and have

the potential to drive growth – in particular, agriculture, fisheries and tourism

- ▶ Provision of basic education and improvement of literacy and numeracy
- ▶ Provision of tertiary study and vocational training

Appendix: COL's Activities in New Zealand

PARTNERSHIPS

COMOSA (Commonwealth Open Schools Association)

Twenty-two partners signed the COMOSA constitution, including **Te Kura Correspondence School** and the **Open Polytechnic of New Zealand**.

Te Kura Correspondence School (Te Kura)

In November 2013, COL visited **Te Kura Correspondence School (Te Kura)** in Wellington to learn about its model of open schooling and to discuss an agreement to support COL with development of the Vanuatu Open School and its teachers through twinning.

In 2014, COL contracted Te Kura to develop the instructional design capacity of course writers for the Vanuatu Open School. To this end, a workshop was held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, 20–24 January 2014, facilitated by **Ms Beverly Jackson** of Te Kura Correspondence School. Participants included 13 teachers from five secondary schools in Port Vila and two secondary schools in Santo, as well as one officer from the Sanma Provincial Education Office.

Otago Polytechnic: OERu Project

The Otago Polytechnic (New Zealand) COL Chair is coordinating the international OER Tertiary Education network of accredited colleges, universities and polytechnics implementing the OERu project. OERu allows learners to learn online with others from around the world, independently, from home, with access to world class courses from recognised institutions.

New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID)

In June 2013, COL met with **Ms Ginny Chapman**, Aid Manager for the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID) in Vanuatu to discuss mutual support to Vanuatu Rural Development and Training Centres Association (VRDTCA).

Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development (PACFOLD)

COL and the University of the South Pacific (USP) agreed to establish a regional centre to strengthen the use of open and distance learning (ODL) in formal, non-formal and informal learning, particularly in skills development, health and agriculture. The aim is to add value to the development process in the region. The centre is based at the Regional Centre for Continuing & Community Education (RCCCE) at USP in Suva. However, the Pacific Regional Centre for ODL is designed to meet the needs of the whole region and makes extensive use of technology to reduce distance between stakeholders. The launch of PACFOLD took place at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in Samoa in September 2014 and included the introduction of the PACFOLD learn online community.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)

COL sponsored the following people to the forum: **Dr Caroline Seelig**, Chief Executive of the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand.

Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum

With Central Gippsland Institute of Technical and Further Education (GippsTAFE), Australia, COL facilitated the Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum in Tonga from 22 to 25 March 2013. The forum was attended by 26 participants from government ministries, NGOs, faith based organisations (FBOs) and TVET institutions in seven Pacific countries: Tonga, Samoa, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Tuvalu. Development partners NZAID and AusAID also attended. The outcome of the forum was a road map for collaboration between TVET institutions in the region and a plan for COL capacity-building support for open, distance and flexible learning approaches. NZAID was represented by **Mr Peter Shackleton**, Deputy High Commissioner in Tonga, who made a presentation on education and skills development in the Pacific – key priorities for the New Zealand Aid Programme.

Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development Consultation Meeting

COL facilitated a consultation meeting for 16 Pacific stakeholders to discuss the establishment of the Pacific Regional Centre for ODL for Development, held in Vanuatu from 18 to 20 June 2013. Participants came from Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, New Zealand, pan-Pacific organisations, NGOs and the host institution, University of the South Pacific (USP). Attending the forum on behalf of NZAID was **Ms Ginny**

Chapman, Aid Manager from the Vanuatu office. **Ms Jenny Williams**, COL Honorary Advisor, and **Ms Terry Neal** from the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand also participated.

Meeting with the High Commissioner

The President and CEO of COL, along with COL Chair, **Dr Linda Sissons**, met the High Commissioner, New Zealand, **Sir Lockwood Smith**, while in London during February 2015 to discuss COL's work.

CAPACITY

COMOSA Planning Meeting and Theory of Change Workshop

Bangladesh Open University, in collaboration with COL, hosted a COMOSA Planning Meeting as well as Theory of Change workshops in Dhaka from 30 September to 3 October 2014.

Ms Terry Neal of the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand participated in the meeting and workshops.

Community Learning Programme Developer's Certificate

Two regional distance training and mentoring courses have been developed and delivered through a partnership between COL and its Healthy Communities partners in the Commonwealth, including the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) and the Media and Training Centre for Health.

Two editions of the 5-week "Communication for Development (C4D): Why. How. Now." e-course were run in 2013/2014. In February to March 2014, **two participants** (both women) from New Zealand were registered for the training.

OTHER

Speeches and Presentations

Professor Asha Kanwar, the President and CEO of COL, gave a presentation titled "Promoting Learning for Development" at the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)**, New Zealand on 20 May 2013.

Contribution to COL Publication

Dr Caroline Seelig of the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand contributed a chapter titled "Being a Leader in Open and Distance Higher Education" to the book *Women and Leadership in Open and Distance Learning and Development*, published by COL.

New Zealander Experts Engaged as Professional Resources

During November and December 2012, COL Honorary Advisor, **Ms Jenny Williams** carried out a study of potential host partners for the planned Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development (PACFOLD).

COL, in collaboration with the Kenyan Ministry of Education, convened a national and regional symposium on open education on 6 to 7 June 2013 in Nairobi with funding support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The symposium included representatives from 10 countries working in post-secondary and secondary levels of education, with special emphasis on open policy development and adoption of open schools in Africa and South Asia. The symposium concluded with draft plans for institutional OER policy developed. **Dr Wayne Mackintosh**, COL Chair in OER at Otago Polytechnic, facilitated the event.

COL Consultant **Mr Terry Marler** of Otago Polytechnic facilitated capacity-building sessions for the Vanuatu Rural Development and Training Centres Association (VRDTCA) and at Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT) in Vanuatu in October 2013. The purpose of the workshops was to build capacity in flexible course design for girls' skills training, and in tourism by distance learning.

LEARNING FOR DEVELOPMENT

COL is an intergovernmental organisation created by Commonwealth Heads of Government to encourage the development and sharing of open learning and distance education knowledge, resources and technologies.

VISION: To be the foremost global agency that promotes learning for development

MISSION: To help governments and institutions to expand the scale, efficiency and quality of learning by using open, distance and technology-based approaches

CORE STRATEGIES: Partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policies

COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING (COL)

4710 Kingsway, Suite 2500

Burnaby, BC V5H 4M2 Canada

Phone + 604 775 8200 / Fax + 604 775 8210

info@col.org / www.col.org