



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

COUNTRY REPORT
2021-2023 | **CARIBBEAN**
& **AMERICAS**



Saint Lucia

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 countries' efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG4. It's supporting governments and institutions in the Caribbean 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 (Caribbean: Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago) 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 (SfW); Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) and GIRLS Inspire.

The work in these sectors complements the three pathways of change COL is focusing on in achieving impact for each Caribbean member state. These are:

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

INTRODUCTION

Saint Lucia is a small island state of the Commonwealth in the Caribbean with a population of almost 180,000 ([World Bank](#), 2022).

COL's work in Saint Lucia is primarily in the areas of higher education through the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) network, technology-enabled learning and skills for work. Learners from Saint Lucia are also participating in COL's free, open online courses and benefitting from other available resources.

PARTNERS

COL's partners in Saint Lucia include:

- Ministry Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training
- Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
- Sir Arthur Lewis Community College

KEY CONTACTS

FOCAL POINT

Ms Karen Renee

Media Technologist, Curriculum and Material Development Unit (CAMDU)
Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology

COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - MAY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- One TVET institution has developed its institutional ODL strategy and action plan.
- 4,092 learners from Saint Lucia have enrolled with 1,394 certificates being issued through the Skills Online programme.

BUILDING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

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

COL supported the attendance of members from all 12 commonwealth Caribbean countries to a meeting with Caribbean Association of National Training Authorities (CANTA) to review, validate and approve the Quality Assurance Criteria and Guidelines for the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) (2023), as well as engage the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) with the aim of approving the reviewed Quality Assurance Criteria and Guidelines for the CVQ. Participants came from ministries, TVET councils, and National Training Agencies. [May 2023]

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

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

Sir Arthur Lewis Community College has submitted a draft of its strategic plan to integrate technology-enabled Learning in its technical and vocational education and training. [Aug2022]

The Caribbean Association of National Training Agencies (CANTA) collaborated with COL and UNESCO-UNEVOC to build the capacity of TVET practitioners to utilise appropriate open and distance learning (ODL) approaches and technology for an inclusive TVET delivery. TVET institutions from Barbados participated in the project in 2021-2022. The National Skills Development Centre (NSDC) developed its institutional ODL strategy and action plan.

IMPROVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

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

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, 4,092 learners from Saint Lucia have enrolled with 1,394 certificates being issued.

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. Three delegates from Saint Lucia attended the **Tenth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF10)**, the first-ever hybrid Forum held in Calgary, Canada from 14-16 September 2022. They included: Germain Anthony, OECS Commission; Pauline Antoine-Prospere, Ministry of Education and Royston Emmanuel, Sir Arthur Lewis Community College.

The **Regional Focal Points Meeting for the Caribbean** was held in Kingston, Jamaica from 30-31 January 2023. COL's Focal Point Ms Karen Lorraine Renee from the Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology, Technical and Vocational Training participated. The meeting set out to update everyone on COL's work in the region and wider Commonwealth, to consult on regional and national priorities and to discuss the role of education in promoting a green learning agenda. Many of the regional and national priorities identified by the Focal Points reflect those in COL's Strategic Plan 2021-2027 but common areas of concern included food security and training related to climate-smart agriculture; male underperformance and the need for pedagogies tailored to meet their needs; access to OER aligned with the national

curriculum; the need to strengthen special needs and inclusive education; increase demand for TVET; and capacity building and technical support for institutions in ODL and digital pedagogies.

PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

Report on the Regional Focal Points Meeting – Caribbean (2023) <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5288>



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