



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

COUNTRY REPORT
2021-2023 | **PACIFIC**



Vanuatu

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

Vanuatu, a small state of the Commonwealth consists of a chain of 13 principal and many smaller islands and has a population of almost 327,000 ([World Bank](#), 2022).

COL's current work in Vanuatu is primarily in the areas of open schooling, skills for work and tertiary education through the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth network. Learners from Vanuatu are also participating in COL's free, open online courses and benefitting from other available resources.

PARTNERS

COL's partners in Vanuatu include:

- Ministry of Education and Training (MOET)
- Ituani Vocational Skills Centre
- USP Emalus Campus
- V-Lab Association

KEY CONTACTS

FOCAL POINT

Marie Jonah

National Education Programmes
Coordinator, Education Services
Directorate, Ministry of
Education and Training

COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - JULY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- **398 teachers from Vanuatu trained to provide effective learner support in ODFL contexts.**
- **Active partnership with Ituani Vocational Skills Centre to build the capacity of TVET practitioners.**
- **Building technical resilience in response to natural disasters**
- **Development of online learning resources for teachers: [ODL Course Catalogue](#), [National OER Collection Site](#), and [Online TVET Toolkit](#)**

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.

The Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), Vanuatu re-launched the pilot of COL's Open Schooling model in 15 schools. 16 official staff (7M/9F) took part in a 2-day training on Aptus Design, ODL policy consultation, and stakeholder mapping. The second part of training began in October 2022 with three ministry officials from Vanuatu participating.

Since January 2023, COL started working with the Ministry of Education and Training to support strengthening its data management systems in response to a natural disaster.

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

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

Six courses developed and offered with 398 teachers from Vanuatu trained to provide effective learner support in ODFL contexts:

- Open Educational Resources for Online Learning, November 2021 (3 teachers)
- Digital Skills for OER Sharing, September 2021 (14 teachers); November 2022 (8 teachers)
- Communication Skills for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning, January 2022 (36 teachers); June 2022 (54 teachers)
- Assessment Skills for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning, April 2022 (146 teachers)
- Learner Support for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning, November 2022 (46 teachers)
- Quality Assurance for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning, February 2023 (48 teachers)

USP launched the Semester Zero programme in January 2022 to ensure a smooth transition of future students to university life. This programme was implemented on a COL-hosted Moodle platform.

A survey on ICT access and use in the Pacific was conducted in April 2022 with people in the Pacific, in which 22 participated from Vanuatu. 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.

COL provides tuition scholarships to learners in the Pacific for USP's Legislative Drafting Programme which was developed with COL support. A total of 5 learners from Vanuatu have been awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Legislative Drafting. Graduates from this programme contribute to good governance in the region.

IMPROVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

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

COL has partnered with the Ituani Vocational Skills Centre 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. <https://pacifictoolkit.col.org>. A three-day workshop was organised by COL in April 2022 to improve staff's competency-based assessment skill using the Toolkit. Following the workshop, staff are implementing a project aimed at enhancing trainers' knowledge and skills through the Toolkit. The activities covered include competency-based assessment, designing and developing open educational resources, building and strengthening relationships with industries and promoting TVET as a pathway for all learners.

Through COL's partnership with V-Lab Association, 65 youths have been trained in April 2023 on leadership skills that can link to employment opportunities.

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 24 from Vanuatu.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

In March 2022, a **webinar on the TVET Toolkit** was held with 20 practitioners and institutional leaders from Vanuatu registered, with additional TVET institutions showing interest to become partners. Ken Henjo, Manager at Ituani Vocational Skills Centre participated as a speaker to share his institution's experience in using the Toolkit.

In August 2022 a **regional workshop with NGOs** where two representatives from Vanuatu participated. NGO representatives learned about the project on Skills and Leadership training for youth, women and persons with disabilities and were invited to submit an action plan and proposal to COL.

PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

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>



4710 Kingsway, Suite 2500
Burnaby, BC V5H 4M2
Canada

Tel: +1.604.775.8200
Fax: +1.604.775.8210
E-mail: info@col.org
Web: www.col.org