



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

COUNTRY REPORT
2021-2023 | **PACIFIC**



Tuvalu

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

Tuvalu is a small state of the Commonwealth and is composed of nine small coral islands scattered in a chain lying approximately northwest to southeast over some 420 miles (676 km). It has a population of just over 11,300 ([World Bank](#), 2022)

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

PARTNERS

COL partners in Tuvalu include:

- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS)
- USP Tuvalu Campus

KEY CONTACTS

FOCAL POINT

Mr Neaki Letia
Director,
Education Department
Ministry of Education,
Youth and Sports

COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - JULY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- **76 teachers from Tuvalu trained to provide effective learner support in ODFL contexts.**
- **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.

A survey on ICT access and use in the Pacific was conducted in April 2022 with people in the Pacific, in which 13 participated from Tuvalu. 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. Nominated by COL's Focal Point, Ms Sina Folia Tane, Senior Education Officer for ICT at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports participated in an in-depth interview.

A survey on data resilience in education systems was conducted with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS), Tuvalu in May 2022 to understand the data infrastructure and management system in response to a natural disaster. Since January 2023, COL started closely working with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to support strengthening its data management systems and offer training for officials.

Between July and October 2022, two nominated Ministry officials from Tuvalu participated in the workshops on policy and planning for ODFL, to improve their knowledge and capacity.

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

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

Five courses developed and offered with 76 teachers from Tuvalu trained to provide effective learner support in ODFL contexts:

- Digital Skills for OER Sharing, September 2021 (26 teachers); November 2022 (3 teachers)
- Communication Skills for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning, January 2022 (2 teachers); June 2022 (9 teachers)
- Assessment Skills for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning, April 2022 (25 teachers)
- Learner Support for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning, November 2022 (3 teachers)
- Quality Assurance for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning, February 2023 (4 teachers)

The Tuvalu OER Collection Site provides resources for teachers that can be used or adapted for their teaching. <https://tuv.oer4pacific.org/>

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

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 in a way that Ministries and educational institutions can have admin access and share any relevant courses for their own country. <https://www.odlcatalogue4pacific.org/>

COL developed the online Pacific TVET Toolkit, an open-source platform to support continuous professional development of TVET practitioners in the Pacific, including Tuvalu. <https://pacifictoolkit.col.org>

IMPROVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

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

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 two from Tuvalu. [Apr2023]

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

In March 2022, a **webinar on the TVET Toolkit** was held with 8 practitioners and institutional leaders from Tuvalu registered, with additional TVET institutions showing interest to become partners.

COL's Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning is held triennially and is co-hosted with different partners in different regions of the Commonwealth. Neaki Letia, Director at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Director and COL's Focal Point 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.

PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

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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