



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

FOCUS ON ST KITTS AND NEVIS 2021–24



COL's work in St Kitts and Nevis is primarily in the areas of higher education through the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth network and skills for work. Learners from St Kitts and Nevis are also participating in COL's free online courses and benefitting from other openly available resources.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Caribbean Association of National Training Authorities, with COL support, held an occupational standards committee workshop for government staff.
- Cayon High School has developed an open and distance learning (ODL) strategy and action plan.

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. We support the governments and institutions in the use of appropriate, affordable technologies to improve and expand learning for sustainable development. During its current plan (2021–27), 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 currently 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 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 complements the three pathways of change COL is focusing on in achieving impact for each member country. These are:

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

KEY CONTACTS

FOCAL POINT

Mr Francil Morris
Chief Education Officer
Ministry of Education

PARTNERS

COL's partners in St. Kitts and Nevis include:

- Ministry of Education

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.

COL and the Caribbean Association of National Training Authorities (CANTA) held an occupational standards committee workshop in St Kitts and Nevis in June 2023 for government staff and officials to develop occupational standards in the green, digital, blue and orange economies.

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

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

During 2021-22, COL, in partnership with UNESCO-UNEVOC, supported CANTA to build the capacity of practitioners to develop strategies for inclusive TVET delivery using open and distance learning (ODL) approaches and technologies. Cayon High School participated in the project and developed an 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.

Learners from St Kitts and Nevis enrolled in various offerings of the course “Capacity Building for NGOs in the Disability Sector” in 2022, delivered through the COL-supported MookIT platform.

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. The Tenth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF10), the first-ever hybrid Forum was held in Calgary, Canada from 14–16 September 2022.

COL’s Regional Focal Points Meeting for the Caribbean was held in Jamaica from 30–31 January 2023. COL’s Focal Point, Mr Francil Morris from the Ministry of Education, participated. Common areas of concern in the region identified by the participants include 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.

COL’s partnership with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States has led to improved capacity among 49 educators to evaluate, select and use assistive technologies as instructional support for students with special needs. To mark the successful completion of the training, a graduation ceremony for these educators was held in June 2023 where participants from six Caribbean nations and territories (British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and The Grenadines), gathered with leaders and senior members of their Ministries for this virtual ceremony.

The Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE), in partnership

with the University of Trinidad and Tobago, held its 19th annual meeting in October 2023, attended by approximately 200 quality assurance professionals in the region from academia, training agencies, and government ministries. COL’s Vice President delivered a plenary on the impact of recent AI developments and senior academics from COL’s VUSSC partner universities presented on post-pandemic QA recovery. The Honourable Nigel de Freitas, Acting President of Trinidad and Tobago and Senate President, stressed the urgency of workforce development for regional economic growth, highlighting the role of innovation.

COL and CANTA have been collaborating to enhance TVET across the Caribbean. Beginning in late 2022, COL hosted a workshop in Barbados to equip leaders with skills for integrating ODL into institutional strategies. This activity led to the revision of guidelines for awarding the Caribbean Vocational Qualification, discussed in subsequent workshops held in Barbados and Grenada. In a meeting in November 2023 in Grenada, COL and CANTA developed two new occupational standards for the blue economy sector and deliberated on scaling courseware materials across the region. Regional organisations such as the CARICOM as well as the International Labour Organisation joined in some of the meetings. These collaborative efforts aim to transform the education system, diversify qualifications, and upskill the workforce from primary to tertiary levels, aligning with global trends and technological advancements. Besides providing technical advice, COL also supported the participation of experts from the 12 Caribbean Commonwealth countries.

PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

Gender Profile 2023: St Kitts and Nevis <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5558>

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

Transforming Education for Climate Action: Report to Commonwealth Ministers of Education
<http://hdl.handle.net/11599/4068>



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