



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

COL in the Commonwealth

**2012–2015
Samoa**

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.

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Foreword

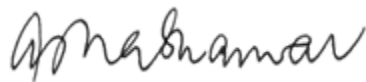
COL in the Commonwealth: 2012-2015 Country Reports summarises COL's activities over the last three years (2012-2015) and captures what we have achieved in each Member State and across the Commonwealth.

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



CONTEXT

A small state of the Commonwealth with a population of about 190,000, Samoa benefits from COL's activities in the region, including those associated with the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC).



AGREED PRIORITIES

- ▶ Develop an ODL policy for Samoa
- ▶ Develop infrastructure, such as SchoolNet, to reach all schools and secure sustainable connectivity
- ▶ Build capacity to produce both online and offline materials that are affordable or free
- ▶ Train teachers to develop online materials at various levels
- ▶ Create a unit to provide pedagogical and technical support to help teachers use information and communication technology (ICT) to deliver curriculum
- ▶ Develop core modules and training for teacher use of ICTs



OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL

- ▶ 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- ▶ First group of VUSSC students graduated with Diplomas in Sustainable Agriculture from the National University of Samoa, and all graduates are now in full-time employment
- ▶ Life Skills Coaches Training Manual and course in Permaculture developed
- ▶ Audio content for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course developed



COL'S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS

National MDG Targets Addressed by COL

- ▶ Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications
- ▶ Address the special needs of small island developing states

COL's Work on Samoa's MDG Targets

- ▶ Training and materials provision in OER, ICTs, ODL and eLearning are underway
- ▶ VUSSC is committed to the collaborative development of open content resources for education, training and capacity-building, and the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) to broaden access to education



QUICK NOTES

COL Board:

- ▶ Letuimanu'asina Dr Emma Kruse Va'ai, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the National University of Samoa, is the the Pacific representative on COL's Board of Governors.

COL Focal Point:

- ▶ Dr Ioana Chan Mow, National University of Samoa

Areas of COL's Work in Samoa:

- ▶ Teacher Education
- ▶ Higher Education
- ▶ Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
- ▶ Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)



SAMOA



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.

- ▶ Ministry of Education Sports and Culture
- ▶ National University of Samoa
- ▶ Matuaileoo Environment Trust Inc. (METI)
- ▶ Samoa Qualifications Authority
- ▶ Samoa Quality Broadcasting
- ▶ Samoa Association of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (SATVETI)
- ▶ PACFOLD regional centre

CAPACITY

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

- ▶ Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
- ▶ Life Skills Coach Training
- ▶ Instructional design

- ▶ Flexible Approaches to TVET
- ▶ Social media for NGOs

MATERIALS

Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

- ▶ Legislative Drafting Programme
- ▶ 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- ▶ Life Skills Coaches Training Manual and course in permaculture
- ▶ Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course

MODELS

A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

- ▶ Transnational Qualifications Framework

OTHER

- ▶ Speeches and presentations



LOOKING FORWARD: 2015–2021

In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL's Focal Point for Samoa was asked to identify the country's top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Samoa. The following areas were identified:

- ▶ Development of an ODL policy
- ▶ Creating of infrastructure (such as SNBH and SchoolNet) to reach all schools and secure sustainable connectivity
- ▶ Building of capacity to produce both online and offline materials which are affordable or free
- ▶ Establishment of eLearning programmes for vocational and lifelong education opportunities for youth and adults
- ▶ Establishment of a support unit to provide pedagogical as well as technical support to teachers using ICT in the delivery of curriculum
- ▶ Development of core modules and training for teacher use of ICTs for teaching and student learning
- ▶ In the health sciences, development of online methods for course delivery in biomedical sciences and specialty areas

PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

Samoa is a member of VUSSC. VUSSC celebrated a milestone in June 2013 with the first group of students graduating with Diplomas in Sustainable Agriculture from the **National University of Samoa**. All graduates found full-time employment

Matuaileo Environment Trust Inc (METI): TVET Partnership

On 14 March 2013, COL visited the **METI** offices and training facility and farm outside Apia. COL is supporting METI to strengthen its training of community development workers. Life Skills Coach Trainers are being trained and new self-instructional learning materials for Life Skills Coaches are being developed.

COL met with the **Honourable Minister of Education, Acting CEO of the Ministry of Education Sports and Culture** and the **COL Focal Point** in Apia, Samoa, on 15 March 2013 to discuss COL's work in TVET in the Pacific, community learning centres and COL support to Samoan NGO, METI.

COL Education Specialist, TVSD, met with COL partner METI in September 2014 to review outcomes from earlier interventions and plan future capacity-building activities. A meeting was also held with the CEO of the Samoa Qualifications Authority, **Fepulea'i Sinapi Moli**, in September 2014 to discuss collaboration on a system of recognition for non-formal skills qualifications. COL Vice President visited METI in September 2014 to learn more about their activities in community development and resource-based learning.

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 Emma Kruse-Va'ai** and **Ms Lineta Tamanikaiyaroi**, both of the National University of Samoa.

Regional Focal Points Meeting

The COL Regional Focal Points Meeting (Pacific) was held in Samoa from 22 to 24 September 2014, co-hosted by the **Samoa Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture**, in cooperation with the **National University of Samoa**. **Dr Ioana Chan Mow** represented Samoa at the meeting.

Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum 2013

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), 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. Attending the forum on behalf of Samoa was **Ms Eseta Faafeu Hope**, President, SATVETI and Dean of Faculty of Applied Science, and **Mr Tauvaga Vaai**, Coordinator of CATT programme, Curriculum Development Office, National University of Samoa.

Regional Workshop on Teacher Education in the Pacific

COL attended the regional workshop on Teacher Education in the Pacific hosted by the National University of Samoa from 20 to 25 May 2013. The meeting's participants included 21 representatives of teacher education departments in the ministries of education and teacher training institutions from seven countries. Discussed at the meeting were the challenges facing teacher education in the region, and the plans and priorities for 2013–2015. As well, three projects were identified with COL support envisioned:

Project 1: Upgrading Mathematics and Science Teachers

COL will collaborate with teacher training institutions to:

- ▶ design and implement special programmes for the training and upgrading of Science and Math teachers; and

-
- ▶ organise continuing professional development workshops for Math and Science teachers so as to update the teachers' knowledge and skills.

Project 2: Capacity-Building in ODL

COL will provide technical support to institutions in the region to build their capacity in ODL and in the use of appropriate technology (with COL using expertise available in the region).

Project 3: Provision of support to the Pacific Association of Teacher Educators (PATE)

COL will be asked to consider providing support to PATE so that PATE's objectives can be achieved, in particular those relating to:

- ▶ professional development of teacher educators in the region;
- ▶ research and publications; and
- ▶ support for PATE as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences on teacher development.

It was agreed that concept notes should be submitted to COL on the three projects before 30 June 2013. It was also agreed that the **National University of Samoa** should develop and submit the concept note for Project 1; Solomon Islands for Project 2; and Tonga for Project 3, on behalf of the participating countries and institutions.

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

COL facilitated a consultation meeting for 16 Pacific stakeholders to consider the role and activities of the Pacific Regional Centre, 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 Samoa were **Ms Gatoloaifaaana Tilianamua To'omata Afamasaga**, Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, and **Mrs Galumalemana Faiese Lei Sam-Matafeo**, Samoa Quality Broadcasting, representing the Program Management Group for Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS). **Mrs Galumalemana Faiese Lei Sam-Matafeo**, CEO Samoa Quality Broadcasting and Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS), has been appointed to the Advisory Board of PACFOLD. She attended the first Advisory Board meeting at USP in May 2014.

VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting

The VUSSC Interlocutors meet every three years to review developments, achievements and lessons learned. The VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting coincides with the Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF). PCF7 was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 6 December 2013. At this meeting, Interlocutors participated

in a half-day impact evaluation workshop with COL's impact evaluators, Dr Stephen Murgatroyd and Ms Janet Tully. Highlights of the Interlocutors Meeting included a discussion of the post-MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), current VUSSC resources, and the importance of gender in the VUSSC initiative. At the close of the meeting, the following countries expressed interest in offering VUSSC courses: Barbados, Vanuatu, Namibia, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, Maldives, Grenada and Dominica. **Dr Emma Kruse-Va'ai** and **Ms Lineta Tamanikaiyaroi**, both of the National University of Samoa, represented Samoa at the meeting.

CAPACITY

Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC

A workshop was organised in Male, Maldives, from 3 to 7 March 2013 specifically for the Asia Pacific region to build the capacity of implementers in designing and implementing the VUSSC M&E framework. It was supported by the Ministry of Education and the Maldives Villa College. **Ms Gatoloaifaaana Tilianamua To'omata Afamasaga**, Strategic Advisor of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, and **Ms Lineta Tamanikaiyaroi**, Head of Construction Department, Faculty of Applied Science of the National University of Samoa, attended the meeting.

Life Skills Coaches Training

A consultancy was held at METI for two weeks in March 2013 to train seven life skills coaches. The Training Officers who participated were: **Aloema Leaupepe**, **Lauano Semau Avalelei Leoo Iakopo Faatauva'a**, **Anamaria Mataafa**, **Lana Magele**, **Nuulelei Toga**, **Faleasi Tuala**, **Matagalua Moemai** and METI Director, **Dr Walter Vermeulen**.

Social Media for NGOs

A workshop on the use of social media for NGOs was facilitated for staff from **METI** and the **Samoa National Youth Council** in October 2014. The workshop was designed to increase the knowledge and usability of social media integration for effective capacity building. Participants developed a toolkit containing guidelines on strategy, communications, social change, web presence, and social media for NGOs. The consultant was Verleshwar Singh from Fiji.

Flexible Approaches to TVET

In May 2014, COL facilitated a workshop in Fiji for 26 participants from nine Pacific countries, including Samoa, to build capacity in flexible approaches to TVET and develop plans for new courses according to country context. As a result, 17 new flexible TVET courses are in development from 12 Pacific

TVET institutions or NGOs. **Mr Vaelupe Uatisone** and **Ms Ateca Silatolu** from NUS participated in the workshop.

MATERIALS

Legislative Drafting Programme

The Legislative Drafting Programme, developed jointly with the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, is offered by COL through partner universities in the Commonwealth. The courses were revised in 2002 and were revised and completely updated again in 2013. The student version of the programme has been converted to open educational resources (OER) and is freely downloadable from the COL website for use by institutions, academics, learners and professionals who want to develop competencies in legislative drafting.

Initially, the course was conducted using a distance learning mode and ran for 30 weeks, from April to November 2012. A total of 22 students enrolled in the Professional Diploma in Legislative Drafting (PDL) programme and COL offered scholarships to **Kerry Miti Kwan** and **Sioa A. Sioa** of Samoa to study in the programme. Thirteen of 15 candidates at the USP from five Member States, including **Samoa**, successfully completed the programme. Fifteen candidates from five Member States, including **Samoa**, were sponsored for the 2014 intake. Another fifteen are currently enrolled in the programme and expected to complete by the end of 2015.

New VUSSC Courses

During 2013–2014, 11 VUSSC courses were completed including: Master's in Educational Leadership, Bachelor's in Business and Entrepreneurship, Diploma in Agriculture, Linux for IT Managers, Facilitating Online Instruction, and Sustainable Tourism. Courses are available to all VUSSC member states on the VUSSC website. Approximately 49,000 people have been reached or trained, including senior officials, educators and over 1,300 learners enrolled in VUSSC-developed courses and programmes.

VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education

Senior officials of the small states identified a need to develop a teacher education programme, especially at the postgraduate level, to help address the acute shortage of teachers in most of the small states and the lack of training programmes in most teacher training institutions. COL therefore facilitated a workshop, in collaboration with the National University of Samoa, to develop a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). It ran from 17 June to 3 July 2013 in Samoa. Twenty-eight participants from 14 countries participated in the workshop, with Samoa having the biggest contingent of 15 participants. Much of the course was developed using open educational resources (OER).

Life Skills Coaches Training Manual and Course in Permaculture

From 13 to 17 January 2014, **Ms Gatoloaifaaana Tilianamua To'omata Afamasaga** facilitated a workshop at METI to build capacity in print-based instructional design for 7 life skills coach trainers. Through ongoing remote support to this team, a manual for training life skills coaches and a course in permaculture have been developed. The Permaculture and the Life Skills Coach Training Manuals will be available as OERs. METI is in the process of training 20 new "Taiala" (life skills coaches) through flexible training.

Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades Course

The Communications Team, with assistance from the Multimedia Team at **National University of Samoa**, completed the development of audio materials for the Pacific Vocational Literacy and Numeracy course. In January 2014, COL met with **Dr Emma Kruse Va'ai** and the Communications team at the **National University of Samoa** to advance the development of the audio materials. The audio materials complement the existing printed Vocational Literacy and Numeracy course that is used with the Pacific Basic Trades Training programme in different countries. This course was offered by two schools in Apia. In September 2014, the course materials were revised to integrate the audio content, and the updated course was introduced to stakeholders at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in September 2014.

MODELS

Transnational Qualifications Framework

A referencing exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA). As a result, the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF) has now been referenced against the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised at both the regional and international levels.

OTHER

Speeches and Presentations

The Vice-President of COL gave a video presentation titled "Teacher Development: Working Together to Achieve Quality Education" at the Regional Workshop on Teacher Education in the Pacific from 20 to 22 May 2013, held in **Samoa**.

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

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