

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Annual Results Summary Report

July 2023–June 2024



The Commonwealth

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Foreword

As I present the Commonwealth Secretariat Annual Results Report for 2023/24, I hope we can reflect together with pride and purpose on a year of decisive, positive and impactful progress.

Our dedication to innovative and inclusive reform has delivered streamlined processes, enhanced responsiveness and stronger governance. Our reforms have not only increased our efficiency and improved our ability to deliver, they have also created the platform for Commonwealth leadership, ensuring that all our member states – especially our small states – are heard at the highest levels of the international system.

Our position at the forefront of global debates on climate resilience, economic development and social equity is confident and impactful, and our focus on small states is guided by our Charter and the mandates of our Heads of Government.

As we approach CHOGM 2024 in Samoa, our commitment to mobilise resources, facilitate partnerships and provide technical assistance to bolster our members' development trajectories will further intensify.

We stand stronger than ever, resolute in the delivery of all 2022 CHOGM mandates, and steadfast in our commitment to deliver on the promise of a fair, prosperous, sustainable and innovative Commonwealth. We will continue to lead with conviction, collaborate with compassion, and innovate with courage.

Together, we are not simply witnessing change; we are driving it. Our collective efforts are shaping a Commonwealth that is dynamic, resilient and forward-looking – a Commonwealth that stands as a testament to what we can achieve when we unite for the common good.



The Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland KC
Secretary-General of the Commonwealth



Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACA	Anti-Corruption Agency	CRSD	Centre for Resilience and Sustainable Development
AI	Artificial Intelligence	CS DRMS	Commonwealth Secretariat Debt Recording and Management System
CAIC	Commonwealth Artificial Intelligence Consortium	CSET	Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transitions
CALL	Call to Action on Living Lands	CSIM	Cambridge–Commonwealth Sustainable Investment Marker
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	CSSO	Commonwealth Small States Office
CCA	Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda	CUDC	Commonwealth Universities Debating Championship
CCEM	Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers	CWCDH	Commonwealth Centre for Digital Health
CCFAH	Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub	CWF	Commonwealth Women’s Forum
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	CYCN	Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network
CEN	Commonwealth Electoral Network	CYMM	Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting
CEP	Commonwealth Election Professionals	CYP	Commonwealth Youth Programme
CFAMM	Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting	DeMPA	Debt Management Performance Assessment
CFMM	Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting	DF	designated fund(s)
CFNHRI	Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions	DHMA	Digital Health Maturity Assessment
CHMM	Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting	DPI	Digital Public Infrastructure
CFTC	Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation	EBR	Extra Budgetary Resource
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting	ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
CLMM	Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting	ECJ	Electoral Commission of Jamaica
CMAG	Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group	EMB	Election Management Body
COG	Commonwealth Observer Group	EOI	Expression of Interest
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	GBA+	Gender-Based Analysis Plus
COMM	Commonwealth Ocean Ministerial Meeting	GCF	Green Climate Fund
COMPASS	Common Pool Asset Structuring System	GRB	Gender-responsive budgeting
COMSEC	Commonwealth Secretariat Fund	IMF	International Monetary Fund
COP	Conference of the Parties	ISO	International Organization for Standardization
CORVI	Coastal Resilience Vulnerability Index	ITWP	International Trade Working Paper
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	LDC	Least developed country
		LNDC	Lesotho National Development Corporation
		M&E	Monitoring and evaluation

MC13	13th Ministerial Conference (WTO)	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
MOU	Memorandum of understanding	UNITAR	UN Institute for Training and Research
MSMEs	Micro, small and medium enterprises	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution	WAMM	Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting
NMIRF	National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up	WHO	World Health Organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	WTO	World Trade Organization
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	YDI	Youth Development Index
ORRAA	Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance	YOY	Year of Youth
PacifEcom	Pacific Regional E-Commerce Alliance		
PERI	Political Economic Resilience Index		
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum		
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat		
RRA	Rapid Readiness Assessment		
SACU	Southern African Customs Union		
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal		
SIDS	Small Island Developing States		
SIDS4	Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States		
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timebound		
SPDD	Strategy, Portfolio, Partnerships and Digital division		
SSB	Small States Bulletin		
THT	Trade Hot Topic		
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training		
UK	United Kingdom		
UN	United Nations		
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development		
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme		
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme		
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific		

Overview

We are pleased to present the Commonwealth Secretariat's 2023/24 Annual Results Report, covering the third year of our 2021/22–2024/25 Strategic Plan. This report highlights progress towards the fulfilment of mandates set at CHOGM 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda. It showcases results across our Strategic Outcomes: Democracy and Governance; Sustainable Development; Resilience and Climate Action; and Small and Other Vulnerable States. Additionally, it details our progress in mainstreaming youth empowerment and gender equality across our programmes.

The Annual Results Report encompasses the achievements of 46 projects delivered through 15 programmes, all in close collaboration with our member countries. Innovation and partnerships remain catalysts of our work with other international and regional partner organisations.

The report is divided into four parts.

1. The **illustrative summary** includes graphic representations of the Strategic Results Framework and its alignment with the CHOGM 2022 mandates; CFTC delivery in 2023/24 in terms of meeting regional priorities; a timeline of Commonwealth consensus-building meetings; and highlights of initiatives related to climate change advocacy and new frontiers in artificial intelligence (AI). It also includes a financial overview of budget performance. This section can be made available as a separate document for easy reference and used in ministerial briefings.
2. The **detailed report by Strategic Outcome** covers notable achievements, financial performance across funds and progress in each programme area, as well as mandates. Each programme is also showcased through deep-dive case studies which include stakeholder feedback. This part of the report also covers youth and gender mainstreaming and programmes under our Catalytic Outcomes.
3. The **section on catalytic and organisational outcomes** discusses advancements in communications, progress on monitoring and evaluation, and improvements in corporate effectiveness.
4. The three **annexes** cover the programme design and prioritisation framework used to facilitate delivery, research and documents published, and the Commonwealth Secretariat's toolkits.

The report is based on evidence and data collected from results-focused programmes across our portfolio. It provides an overview rather than an exhaustive iteration of all Secretariat actions delivered in 2023/24. The aim is to highlight key progress across the Strategic Outcomes. Case studies illustrate notable results or progress towards impact. This report also reflects our commitment to learning, value for money and enhancing transparency and accountability.

The Secretariat operates in a complex delivery context marked by significant challenges for multilateral institutions and growing threats to democracy worldwide. These challenges include geopolitical tensions, economic disparities and the rise of authoritarianism, which undermine democratic norms and institutions. Additionally, issues such as climate change, global health crises and digital transformation require co-ordinated multilateral responses, often hindered by differing national interests and priorities.

Within this challenging global context, the Secretariat has continued to foster co-operation, promote good governance and support member states to uphold democratic values – each of which are crucial to navigating these turbulent times and ensuring a resilient and inclusive global community.

This year, the Secretariat has grappled with resourcing challenges across our three funds. To address this challenge, the Secretariat has made cost efficiencies across operational areas and engaged actively with our member states to bolster committed funding across members in arrears as well as with larger contributors. The Secretariat has also leveraged partnerships to co-deliver its work programmes, and continues to seek alternative models to external funding through EBRs. There continues to be a backlog of technical assistance requests for CFTC support which could pose a heightened reputational risk, but which also underlines the continued relevance of the curated support the Commonwealth offers.

We are grateful for the leadership and support of our Secretary-General, the Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland KC; our Senior Management Committee; our Board of Governors and our member countries and partners. Together, we have demonstrated that the Commonwealth Secretariat is a trusted and effective partner in advancing the Commonwealth's shared goals of democracy, development and diversity. We invite you to review this report and guide us forward.

CHOGM 2022 Alignment

In June 2022, at CHOGM in Kigali, Rwanda, Heads set out new mandates and asked the Secretariat to redouble efforts on existing mandates included in the 2021/22–2024/25 Strategic Plan.

In 2023/24 the Secretariat has continued taking forward CHOGM 2022 mandates previously identified in the 40 paragraphs of the CHOGM 2022 Communiqué; in the 2022

Commonwealth Call to Action on Living Lands; in the 2022 Declaration on Sustainable Urbanisation; and in the 2022 Kigali Declaration on Childcare and Protection Reform.

The Strategic Results Framework below outlines this alignment making specific reference to delivery on CHOGM outcomes by area.

Table A.1: The Strategic Results Framework, including the relevant 2022 CHOGM mandates

Strategic Pillars				
Democracy & Governance	Sustainable Development	Resilience & Climate Action	Small & Vulnerable States	
Strategic Plan Outcome/Programme & CHOGM 2022 Communiqué Paragraph Numbers	<p>1.1 Member countries effectively utilise mechanisms to further adherence to Commonwealth values and Principles CHOGM Communiqué paragraphs 12, 26</p>	<p>2.1 Effective trade policy, increased competitiveness and co-operation Paras 43, 44, 46, 48</p>	<p>3.1 Enhanced intra-Commonwealth co-operation on sustainable ocean action and energy transition Paras 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70</p>	<p>4.1 Policy positions advanced in global governance mechanisms Paras 33, 41, 42</p>
	<p>1.2 Member countries conduct fair, credible and inclusive elections Para 14</p>	<p>2.2 Sustainable public finance and debt management Paras 35, 36</p>	<p>3.2 Enhanced access to financial resources, technology and capacities for climate change adaptation and mitigation Leaders statement; paras 55, 66; Commonwealth Call to Action on Living Lands; Declaration on Sustainable Urbanisation</p>	<p>4.2 Reduced vulnerability to shocks and improved fiscal sustainability and access to financing Paras 41, 42</p>
	<p>1.3 Public institutions and frameworks in member countries strengthened to promote rule of law, access to justice, human rights and good governance Paras 15, 18, 21, 29, 104</p>	<p>2.3 Sustainable, equitable, transparent and effective management, governance and use of the ocean, energy and natural resources Paras 64, 68, 69</p>		
		<p>2.4 Inclusive and resilient education and health systems Paras 22, 82, 87, 95, 97; Kigali Declaration on Child Care & Protection Reform</p>		
	Cross-cutting Outcomes			
	<p>Youth Empowerment</p>	<p>CC1 Effective participation and equal opportunities for youth in leadership, governance, economic and social development enhanced Paras 57, 89, 91, 92, 93</p>	<p>Gender</p>	<p>CC2 Gender disparities in access to political, social and economic rights and violence against women and girls reduced Paras 28, 97</p>
	Catalytic Outcomes			
	Partnerships Paras 31, 98, 108			

Financial Performance 2023/24

This section presents the financial performance of the Commonwealth Secretariat for the year ending 30 June 2024. It shows how the Secretariat allocated and utilised its budget to deliver on the CHOGM 2022 mandates and other strategic priorities. It also provides a breakdown of the budget by fund, programme and staff costs. The financial expenditure outlined herein is based on the unaudited financial statements.

The Secretariat's total budget for 2023/24 amounted to £46.0 million, of which £33.7 million was the direct budget. Of the total direct budget, which is spent on strategic outcomes, expenditure was 84 per cent, or £28.3 million, resulting in a variance of £5.3 million in direct budget versus expenditure.

Total direct budget expenditure of £28.3 million was split between programme costs (£14.9 million, or 53 per cent) and staff costs (£13.4 million, or 47 per cent).

The Secretariat implemented a total of 46 projects across 15 programmes during the financial year 2023/2024. The Secretariat has ensured effective budget utilisation across the three major funds: the Commonwealth Secretariat Fund (COMSEC), the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) and the Commonwealth Youth Programme Fund (CYP).

The 2023/24 *Annual Results Report* outlines progress made against each strategic outcome and their constituent programmes. These were delivered in collaboration with our

members, partners and accredited organisations across the programmes within the Strategic Plan. The unaudited expenditure in 2023/24 for the 15 programmes delivered is outlined in figure A.2 below. Expenditure met by Extra Budgetary Resources (EBRs) is outlined in figure A.3 below.

Collaborative efforts leveraging partnerships at national, regional and international levels, including with Commonwealth Accredited Organisations, remain instrumental to catalysing Strategic Plan outcomes. The Secretariat has also emphasised partnerships as a critical lever to respond to emerging requests. In 2023/24 the Secretariat utilised £2.9 million in EBRs from partners – including member countries, government bodies, private entities and other multilaterals – for initiatives within the Strategic Plan. This included projects on climate finance, elections, cybersecurity, Commonwealth Small States Offices and advisory support, as well as debt management and natural resources management.

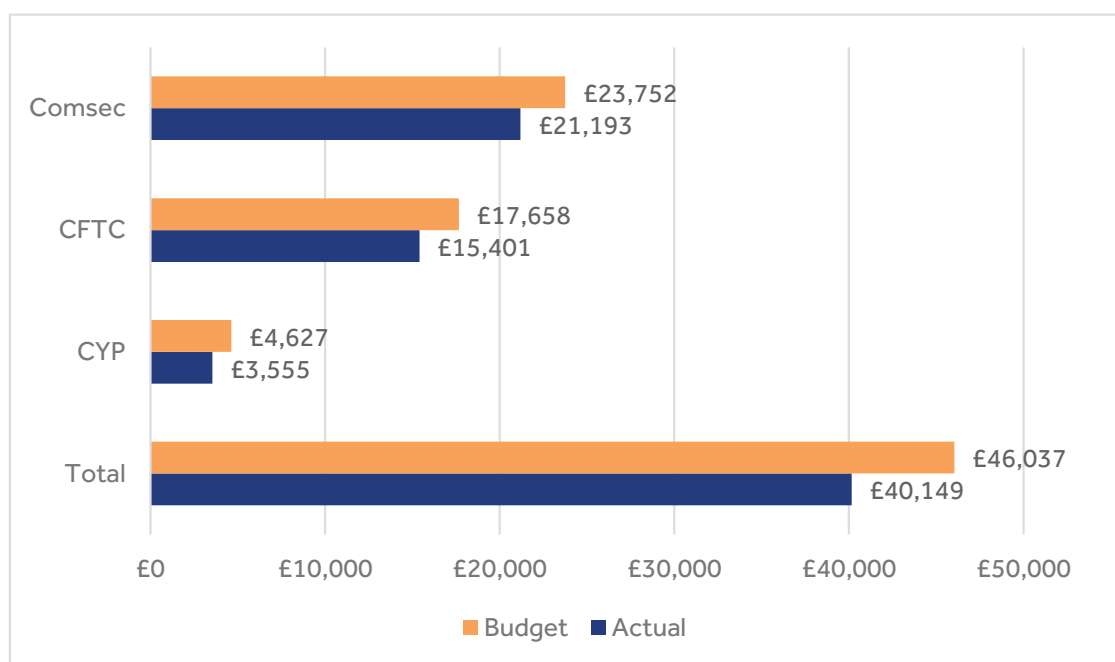
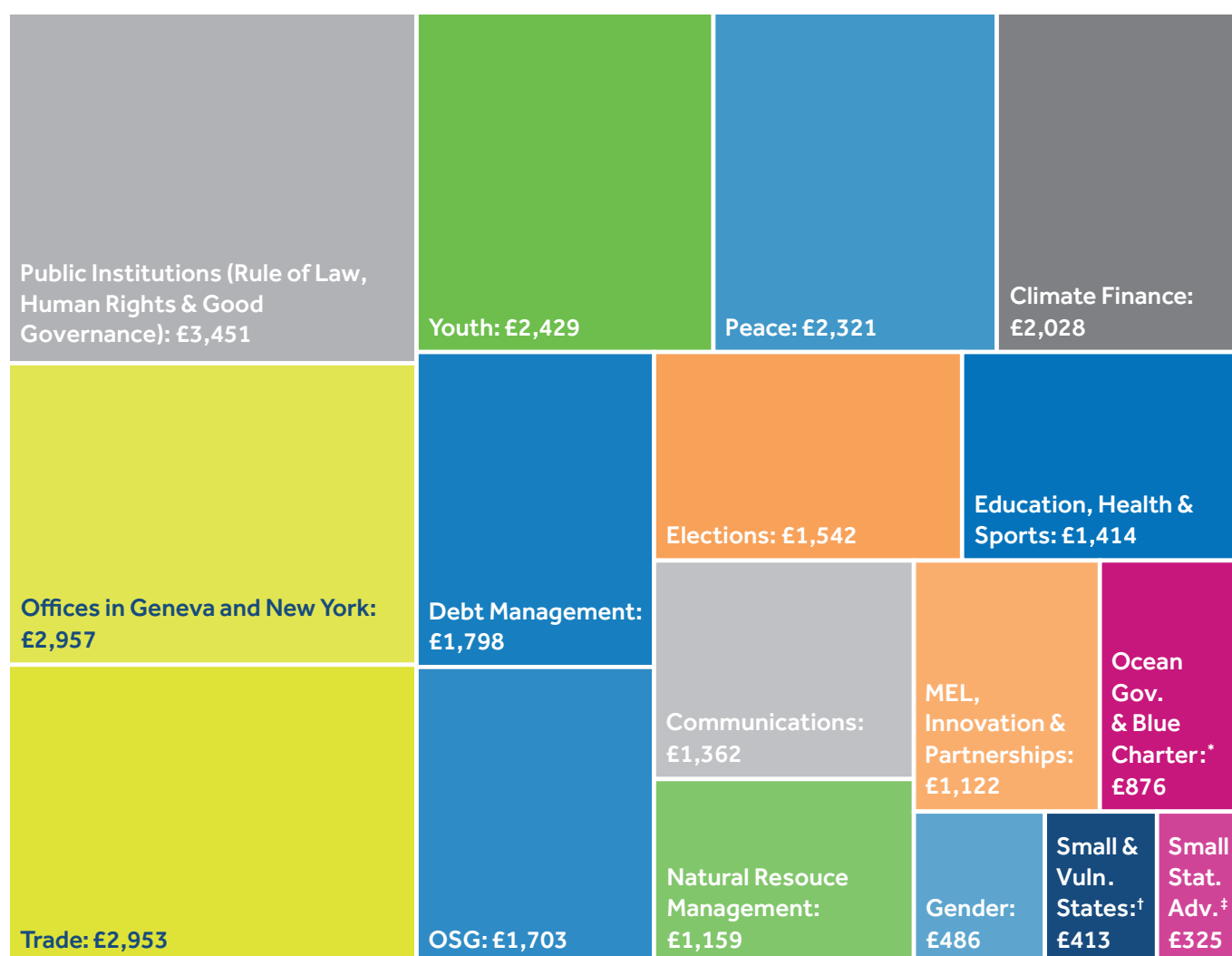


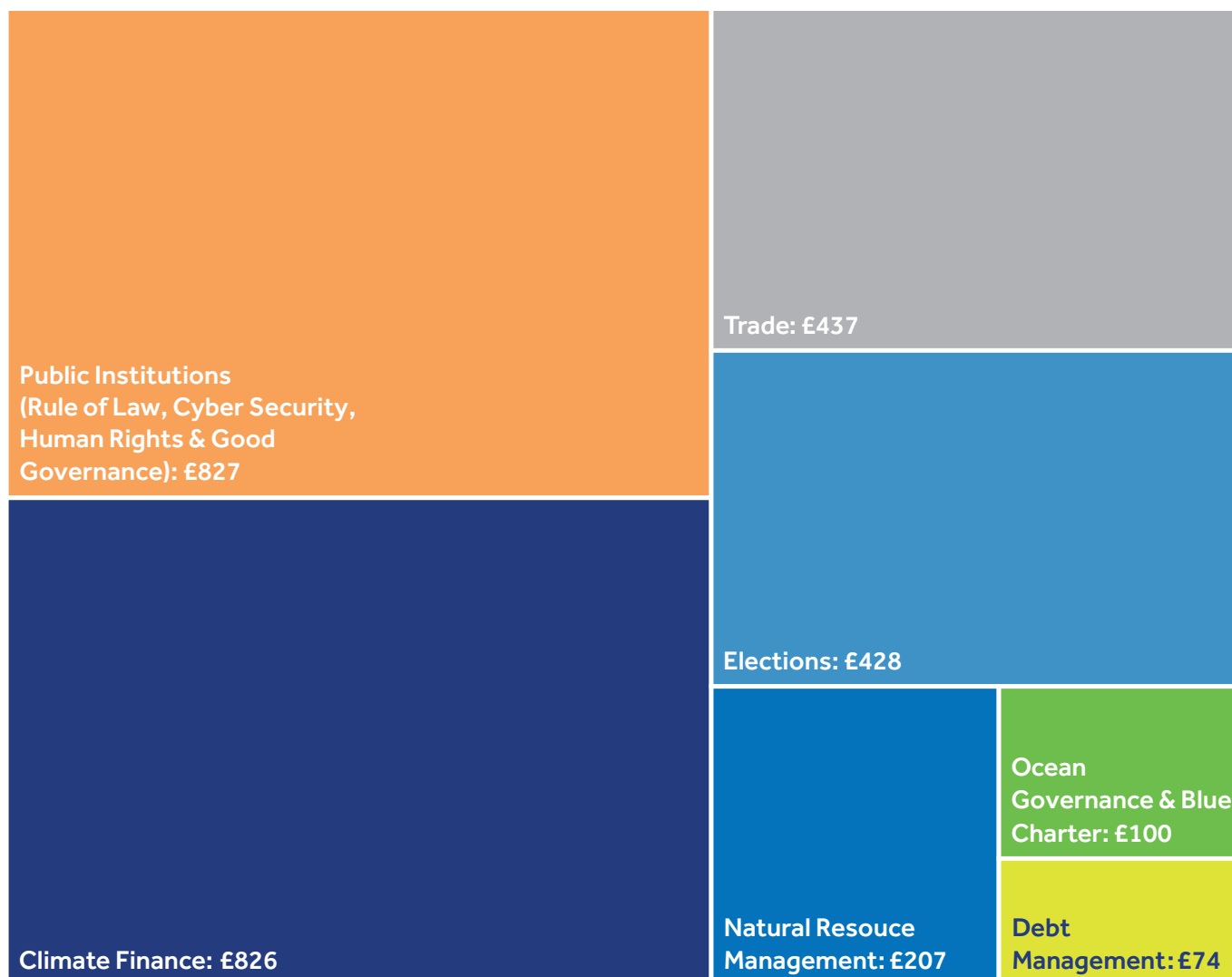
Figure A.1: Budget utilisation (£000s budget versus actual) by fund, unaudited, 2023/24

Figure A.2: Unaudited Actual Expenditure (£000s) by Outcome, 2023/24



Note: *Ocean Governance & Blue Charter; †Small & Vulnerable States; ‡Small States Advocacy.

Figure A.3: Unaudited Actual Expenditure (£000s) from Extra Budgetary Resources by Outcome, 2023/24



Programme performance 2023/24

In the fourth year of the 2021/22–2024/25 Strategic Plan, the Secretariat has focused on specific areas of its comparative advantage while taking forward current programmes and continuing to support business-critical areas.

As of June 2024, 88 per cent of indicators of programme outcomes have been met, exceeded or are showing good progress towards their targets. These indicate changes in performance, behaviours and practices of beneficiaries

and partners aligned with the Secretariat’s programmes. A detailed results framework outlining portfolio indicators, annual progress against targets and RAG rating can be found in Annex 4 of the comprehensive *Annual Results Report 2023/24*. Outcome indicators by strategic pillar are included in the yellow ‘notable achievements’ box-outs from page 20 onwards.

CFTC 2023/24

Priorities by Region



Commonwealth-wide

- Commonwealth Carbon Tax Model Law
- Commonwealth Law on Virtual Assets
- Commonwealth Field Development Plan Toolkit
- Regulatory Impact Assessments Training and Guide
- Asia Pacific Trade facilitation dialogue with UNESCAP
- Biennial Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition Forum
- Clean Energy Finance Online Resource
- Convened Rural Electrification and Energy Access Action Group
- Convened Commonwealth Working Group on Legal reform and Digitalisation
- Commonwealth-UN Small States Advocacy Strategy Champions
- Commonwealth Ministerial working group on Call for a New Financial Architecture



Asia

Regional priorities

- Climate change finance, adaptation and mitigation
- Sustainable economic development
- Technology and artificial intelligence
- Good governance, democracy, human rights and rule of law
- Oceans and clean energy

Maldives

- Climate Finance Adviser in position
- Commonwealth Meridian for public debt recording and reporting

India

- Capacity building on Commonwealth Meridian for private sector external debt at the Reserve Bank of India
- Supporting Uttarakhand State with Commonwealth Meridian for public debt recording and reporting

Pakistan

- Training of judges on international human rights law
- Training on trade negotiations and trade policy development

Sri Lanka

- Climate Finance Adviser in position

Bangladesh

- Support to implementation of trade competitiveness policy
- Capacity-building of National Human Rights Commission
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue on a model of Digital Public Infrastructure for agricultural data

Caribbean and Americas

Regional priorities

- Economic integration, innovation and development
- Human and social development
- Foreign policy co-ordination

Regional delivery

- Support on Commonwealth Meridian for public debt recording and reporting in Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Belize, Barbados, Guyana, The Bahamas, Saint Lucia, Jamaica
- Establishment of Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and Blue Economy
- Technical assistance to strengthen data protection framework within digital market
- Technical assistance and capacity-building for WTO negotiations
- Capacity-building on human rights treaty body reporting
- Multi-stakeholder regional dialogue on a model of Digital Public Infrastructure for agricultural data
- Study on the Impact of Data Protection and Privacy in Regulating Competition and Consumer Protection for Digital Markets with CARICOM
- Regional Training Workshop on Medium-Term Debt Strategies (MTDS)

Trinidad and Tobago

- Rapid readiness assessment project with UNEP concluded
- 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games Evaluation Report

Antigua and Barbuda

- Rapid readiness assessment project with UNEP concluded
- Finalised national maritime transportation policy
- Human rights advisory from CSSO Geneva
- Antigua and Barbuda/UK Trade and Investment Summit support

Dominica

- Developed a clean energy business case
- Capacity-building to manage UPR Review on human rights
- Assistance in finalising national maritime policy

Belize

- Policy and legislative support to petroleum sector reforms
- Needs assessment and case study on sustainability and tourism

Barbados

- Policy and legislative support to energy sector reforms
- Improved business continuity plan for debt management
- Latimer House Principles symposium

Guyana

- Policy and legislative support to petroleum sector reforms
- Technical assistance in preparation for upcoming review with UN Human Rights Committee



The Bahamas

- Policy and legislative support to national mining reforms
- Review of debt management strategy

Saint Lucia

- Technical assistance to improve Debt Management Performance Assessment rating

Jamaica

- Technical assistance engagement with Commonwealth Observer Group

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

- Assistance in finalising national maritime policy

Pacific

Regional priorities

- People-centred development
- Peace and security
- Resource and economic development
- Climate change and disasters
- Ocean and environment

Regional delivery

- Support on Commonwealth Meridian for public debt recording and reporting in Vanuatu, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands
- Climate Finance Advisers in position in Fiji, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
- Climate Finance Write-shop
- Climate finance negotiation training
- Training on Joint Management Areas in 22nd Pacific Maritime Boundaries Working Session
- Capacity building on human rights treaty body reporting
- Technical assistance and capacity-building for WTO negotiations
- Contribution to PIFS workshop on Regional Kava Development
- Established the Pacific Regional E-commerce Alliance

Vanuatu

- Policy and legislative support to petroleum sector reforms
- Policy and legislative support in mining sector reforms
- Technical support for Human Rights Commission engagement

Kiribati

- Policy and legislative support on national mining reforms
- Technical support on submission and statements to the Human Rights Commission
- National seminar on addressing the digital divide and regulatory coherence for trade and investment

Tonga

- Capacity-building to MSMEs under Digital Connectivity Cluster
- Development of investment promotion and facilitation website

Papua New Guinea

- Capacity-building for judiciary on cybercrime and electronic evidence

Fiji

- Regional workshop on effective legal frameworks for building the digital economy
- Climate finance 'writeshop'

Cook Islands

- Policy and legislative support to national mining reforms
- Legal and advisory support on justice frameworks



Samoa

- Technical assistance to conduct national e-commerce legislative gap analysis

Nauru

- Climate Finance Adviser in position

Tuvalu

- Climate Finance Adviser in position

Solomon Islands

- Technical assistance and capacity building on the development of a national policy and draft bill on product packaging and labelling.

Africa

Regional priorities

- Inclusive growth and sustainable development
- Good governance, democracy, human rights and rule of law
- People-driven, especially women, youth and caring for children

Regional delivery

- Support on Commonwealth Meridian for public debt recording and reporting in Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Eswatini, Nigeria, Mozambique, Kenya, Cameroon, Seychelles, The Gambia, Ghana and Tanzania
- Three regional Commonwealth Meridian workshops (in collaboration with World Bank and regional partners)
- Regional workshop on oil and gas emission reduction and near-zero methane
- Support to the development of competition policy with COMESA
- Capacity-building on human rights treaty body reporting
- Networking and knowledge-sharing on the role of e-commerce
- Technical assistance and capacity-building for WTO negotiations
- Commonwealth Africa Cybercrime Fellowship Conference
- Convened Rural Electrification and Energy Access Action Group championed by Malawi and Nigeria.
- SACU E-Commerce Framework Workshop with UNCTAD

Mauritius

- Manufacturing 4.0 Capacity Building Workshop Series
- Impact assessment to determine the feasibility of the adoption of the international exhaustion regime for trademarks
- Climate change negotiations training
- Review of debt management framework and revision of the public debt management procedures manual
- Capacity-building for MSMEs on Entrepreneurial Export Skill
- Phase two of the CORVI Rapid Readiness Assessment project

Lesotho

- Technical assistance on export development and investment promotion
- Latimer House principles symposium
- Gender-responsive budgeting training and support

Malawi

- Policy and legislative support to petroleum sector reforms
- Capacity-building for government on legal and fiscal reforms to petroleum sector
- Debt Management Performance Self-assessment
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue on Digital Public Infrastructure for agriculture data
- Technical assistance to implement the National Export Strategy and develop a new national trade policy
- Support to participating in CEDAW Committee review
- Capacity-building for judiciary on cybercrime and electronic evidence



Namibia

- Climate Finance Adviser in position
- Policy and legislative support to petroleum sector reforms
- Capacity building on legal and fiscal reform of mining sector
- Support for petroleum emissions reduction, near zero methane and sector energy transition strategies.
- Scoping and training on law reform and legislative drafting

Sierra Leone

- Technical support on submission and statements to Human Rights Commission

Uganda

- Training of judges on international human rights law

Eswatini

- Technical assistance in Debt Management Performance Self-Assessment
- Capacity-building on engagement with human rights mechanisms
- Capacity building and legislative support on legal and fiscal reform of mining sector

Nigeria

- Product development training for MSMEs

Mozambique

- Technical support on Human Rights Commission engagement

Kenya

- National Diaspora Investment Strategy
- Scoping and training on law reform and legislative drafting
- Technical assistance on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection

Cameroon

- Digital bootcamp for MSMEs

Seychelles

- Climate Finance Adviser in position
- Training of government on delimitation of maritime borders
- Workshop on digital maturity assessment of healthcare system



Rwanda

- Debt management business continuity and disaster recovery training with Ministry of Finance
- WTO MC 13 workshop

The Gambia

- Diaspora Investment Study and Report
- Technical assistance on reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child
- Support for the implementation of the National Export Strategy
- Review of National Sports Policy

Ghana

- Multi-stakeholder dialogue on Digital Public Infrastructure for agriculture data
- Capacity-building for officials on cybercrime and electronic evidence

Zambia

- Capacity-building for judiciary on cybercrime and electronic evidence
- Workshop on digital maturity assessment of national healthcare system
- Capacity building on trade policy analysis, trade agreements and negotiations

Tanzania

- Launch of Tanzania and Zanzibar Says NO MORE campaigns, as part of the Commonwealth Says NO MORE initiative

Botswana

- Two Commonwealth regional conferences for anti-corruption bodies delivered
- Enterprise risk management technical assistance workshop
- Tailored capacity-building with specific advice provided on youth mainstreaming

South Africa

- Leadership and management training tailored for senior management of anti-corruption agencies
- Jointly hosted the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) E-Commerce Framework workshop

Highlights of the Year 2023/24

Aug
2023



Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting, The Bahamas

Chair: The Bahamas



Sept
2023



Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting, New York

Chair: Rwanda



Commonwealth Environment Ministers Meeting, New York

Chair: UK



Apr
2024



Commonwealth Ocean Ministers Meeting, Nicosia

Chair: Cyprus



Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting, Zanzibar

Chair: Tanzania



Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, London

Chair: Malta



May
2024



Commonwealth Education Ministers Meeting, London

Chair: Kenya



Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting, Geneva

Chair: Kenya



**Commonwealth Ministerial
Action Group, New York**
Chair: Samoa



**Commonwealth Youth Ministers
Meeting, London**
Chair: Pakistan



**Commonwealth Finance
Ministers Meeting, Marrakesh**
Chair: Fiji



Oct
2023

Nov
2023

Dec
2023

Mar
2024



**Commonwealth Day 2024,
London**

**Commonwealth Ministerial
Group, London**
Chair: Bangladesh



**Kenya Innovation Week,
Nairobi**
Chair: Kenya



 = Number of countries represented

THE COMMONWEALTH AT COP28

The Commonwealth Secretary-General led a delegation of policy experts, climate specialists and youth alliances to the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties 28, held in Dubai in December 2023. The Secretariat secured sponsorship for a Commonwealth COP28 pavilion that serves as a central hub for member countries and key partners. Hosting more than 40 activities, including technical meetings, introductory sessions and high-level discussions, the pavilion was pivotal for advocating the interests of small and vulnerable states,

notably through the direct support of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub's advisers for COP negotiations.

'Decisive action for systems transformation, rooted in the sharpest honesty about where we are, where we need to be, and how we get there, is the only way forward... It falls to us – here and now – to make it happen, and there is no time left to waste.'

The Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland KC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

Living Lands Charter: Presented the Commonwealth Living Lands Charter Implementation Plan, developed in consultation with member countries for actions on land, biodiversity, and climate issues.



Climate Finance Essentials: Initiated a Commonwealth Climate Finance Essentials e-learning course, informed by CCFAH, to assist vulnerable nations in accessing climate finance.



Gender-Based Analysis Plus: Conducted a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) masterclass, embedding gender integration strategies across all climate action projects.

Global Stocktake: Released the *Blueing the NDCs* report, which urges critical change to fulfil Paris Agreement obligations and notes progress on ocean-based climate actions linked to funding, in line with the Global Stocktake report.

Blue Charter: Launched the Ocean Youth Working Group and a Gender Outreach Assistant as part of the Commonwealth Blue Charter advocacy.

Carbon Tax Model Law: Introduced the Commonwealth Carbon Tax Model Law, developed under the Commonwealth Natural Resources Programme, to guide nations in implementing carbon taxes that aim to curb emissions and maintain a maximum global temperature rise of 1.5°C.



Just Energy Transition: Launched an *Oil and Gas Decommissioning Toolkit* to support effective management of technical, health, safety, environmental and financial risks.



Methane Action: Announced a Methane Action Group under the Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition Agenda to expedite methane emission reduction among member states.



Financing Decarbonisation: Introduced a toolkit to encourage decarbonisation of the transportation sector in SIDS and presented an online knowledge centre on private and public financing sources for the clean energy transition.

Health & Climate Nexus: Collaborated with PATH on health and climate nexus to showcase impactful innovations and actionable measures for COP28's inaugural Health Day.

Youth: Facilitated six youth-led climate engagement events, collaborated with UNFCCC on youth leadership and presented *Commonwealth Youth Policy Recommendations on Climate Change*.



Indigenous Innovations: Launched the Wildfire-Resilient Landscapes Network with the Circular Bioeconomy Alliance to combine indigenous and scientific knowledge on wildfires through Living Labs, attended by His Majesty King Charles III.



Media Impact: Substantial increase in social media influence with the #CommonwealthForClimate campaign, reaching over 7 million users – a 295 per cent growth from COP27.



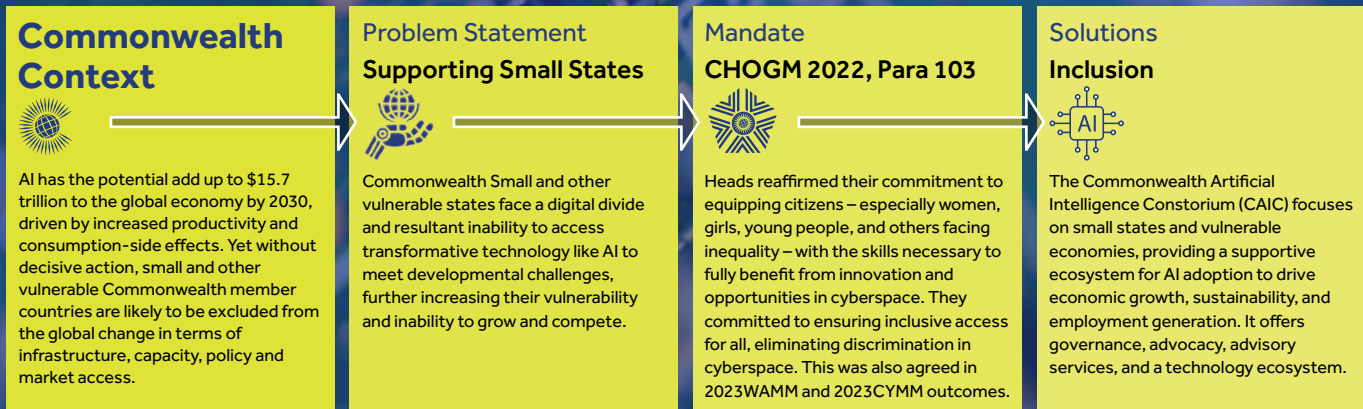


United Nations
Climate Change



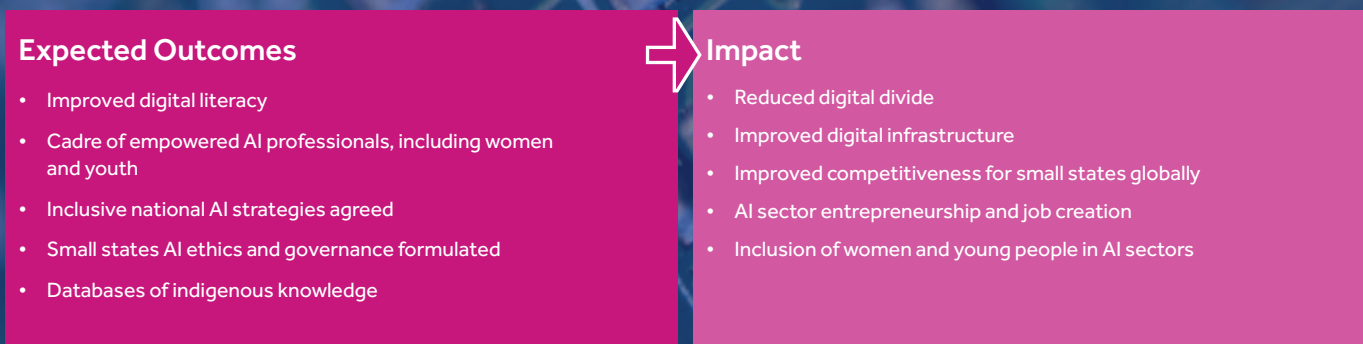
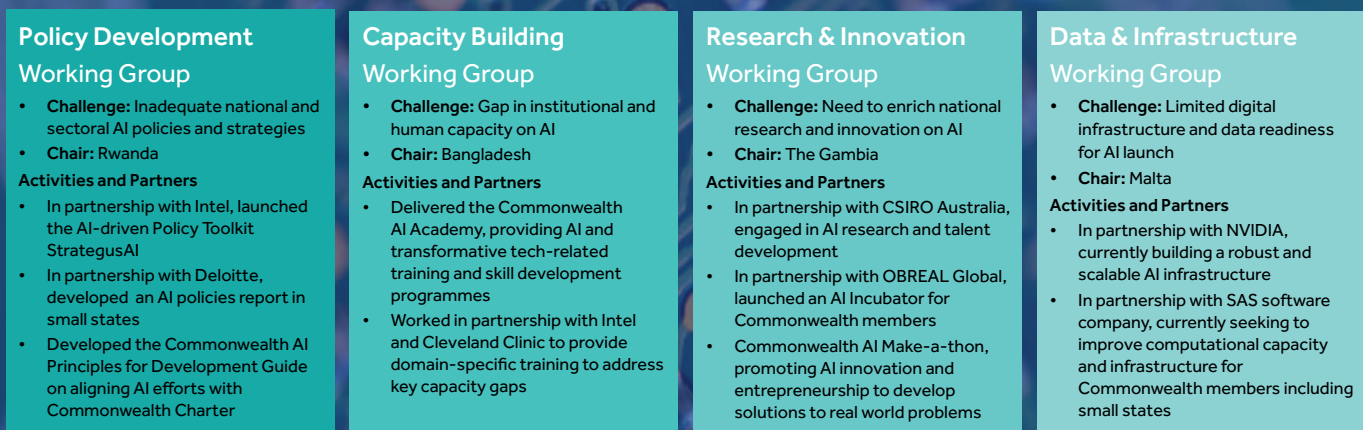
COP28UAE

COMMONWEALTH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CONSORTIUM



CAIC THEORY OF CHANGE

The Commonwealth Artificial Intelligence Consortium is a transformative initiative that aims to harness AI to foster sustainable development across Commonwealth countries through the following four working groups.



Strategic Outcomes Summary



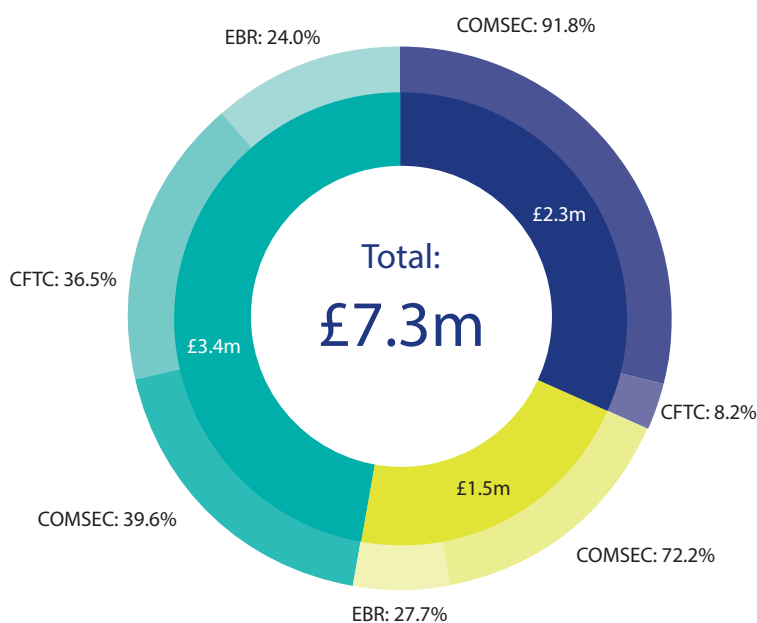
Democracy and Governance

3 programmes

- ‘Peace and Democracy’**
 1.1 Member countries effectively utilise mechanisms to further adherence to Commonwealth values and principles
- ‘Elections’**
 1.2 Member countries conduct fair, credible and inclusive elections
- ‘Public Institutions’**
 1.3 Public institutions and frameworks in member countries strengthened to promote rule of law, access to justice, human rights and good governance

Notable achievements

- Convened Senior Officials and Commonwealth Law Ministers Meetings
- Convened Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting
- Convened Four Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group Meetings
- CHOGM 2024 Open-Ended Working Group meetings held
- CHOGM high-level policy paper and communiqué developed and circulated
- Deployed missions to four elections
- Training for professionals from 18 Election Management Bodies in Africa
- Drafted and launched Model Law on Virtual Assets
- Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Disability Inclusion
- Marlborough House Dialogues
- Universal Periodic Review capacity-building in Pacific
- Pan-African anti-corruption workshop
- Built capacity of 196 law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges and magistrates in Pacific and Asia to advance Commonwealth Cyber Declaration
- Commonwealth African Cyber Fellowship annual conference
- Met or made ‘good progress’ against 85 per cent of performance indicators



- 1.1 Member states adhere to Commonwealth values and principles
- 1.2 Member states conduct fair, credible and inclusive elections
- 1.3 Public institutions and frameworks strengthened to promote rule of law

Figure 1.1: Actual expenditure on Democracy and Governance, by fund, unaudited, 2023/24 (£'000s)

Table 1.1: Democracy and Governance projects and relevant mandates

Project name	Mandate
Secretary-General's Good Offices	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué para 12
Political Analysis, Advice and Engagement and Regional Consensus-Building	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué paras 18, 21 31; CHOGM 2003 Abuja Latimer House Principles
Elections	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué paras 11, 12, 14
Effective Rule of Law Frameworks	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué paras 18, 21 31; CHOGM 2003 Abuja Latimer House Principles
Human Rights Frameworks	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué paras 15, 23
Commonwealth Anti-Corruption Centre and Networks	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué paras 30, 32
Cyber Frameworks	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué para 104
Strengthening of Public Administration	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué para 29
Office of Civil and Criminal Justice Reform	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué para 18
Governance Technologies	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué para 29, 102, 103

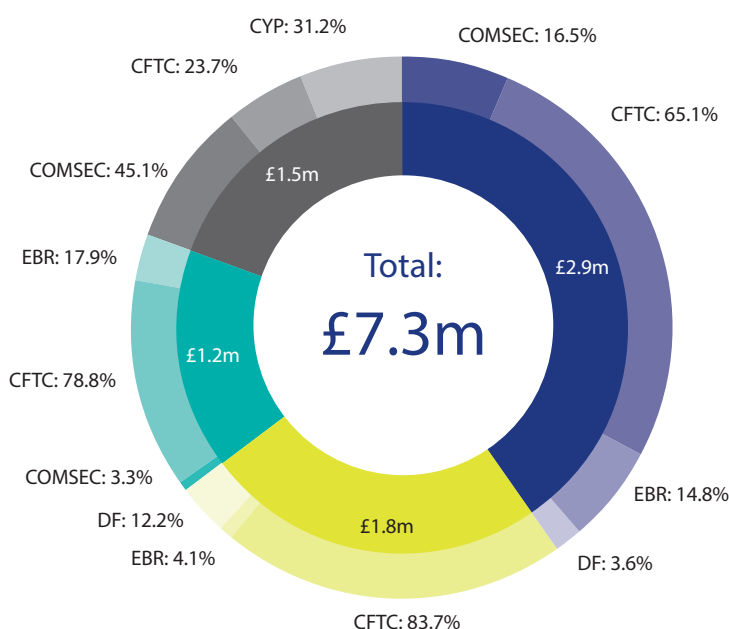
Sustainable Development

4 programmes

- **'Trade'**
2.1 Effective trade policy, increased competitiveness and co-operation
- **'Debt Management'**
2.2 Sustainable public finance and debt management
- **'Ocean Governance and Natural Resource Management'**
2.3 Sustainable, equitable, transparent and effective management, governance and use of the ocean, energy and natural resources
- **'Social Policy Development'**
2.4 Inclusive and resilient education and health systems

Notable achievements

- Technical advisory provided to members on WTO 13th Ministerial Conference
- Six new countries transitioned to Commonwealth Meridian
- Vanuatu Mineral Policy adopted by Cabinet to maximising socio-economic benefits and safeguard people and the environment
- Launched the *Commonwealth Model Carbon Tax Law and Field Development Plan Toolkit*
- Three countries developing oil and gas emissions reduction action plans following successful regional workshop on minimising petroleum emissions
- Assistance to Malawi in oil and gas reform and emissions reduction workshop for African region
- Drafted National Maritime Transportation Policy for Antigua and Barbuda
- Capacity-building workshops for Seychelles and Zambia
- Implemented outcomes of 2023 Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting
- Convened Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Health, Senior Officials and 36th Health Ministers Meetings
- Convened 22nd Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers
- Met or made 'good progress' against 100 per cent of performance indicators



- 2.1 Effective trade policy, increased competitiveness and co-operation
- 2.2 Sustainable public finance and debt management
- 2.3 Sustainable management and use of the ocean, energy & natural resources
- 2.4 Inclusive and resilient education and health systems

Figure 2.1: Actual expenditure on Democracy and Governance, by fund, unaudited, 2023/24 (£'000s)

Table 2.1: Sustainable Development projects and relevant mandates

Project name	Mandate
Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda and Trade Ministers Meeting	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué para 44
Trade Competitiveness	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué paras 43, 48
International Trade Policy	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué paras 45, 47, 48
Public Debt Management	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué para 35
Strengthening Public Debt Management Framework and Developing Government Bond Market in The Bahamas	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué paras 35, 36;
Commonwealth Meridian	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué paras 35, 36
Natural Resources	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué para 63, 64, 69
Ocean Governance and Maritime Boundaries	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué para 40, 63, 100
Health Security and Resilience	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué para 87
Sport for Development and Peace	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué para 101
Inclusive and Resilient Education	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué para 95

Resilience and Climate Action

2 programmes

- ‘Sustainable Energy Transition and Blue Charter’**
 3.1 Enhanced intra-Commonwealth co-operation on sustainable ocean action and energy transition
- ‘Climate Change’**
 3.2 Enhanced access to financial resources, technology and capacities for climate change adaptation and mitigation

Notable achievements

- Convened the first Commonwealth Climate and Environment Ministers Meeting, chaired by UK
- Convened the first Commonwealth Ocean Ministers Meeting, chaired by Cyprus
- US\$310.41 million mobilised in climate finance for member countries
- 30 distinct Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub training programmes conducted
- Launched the Living Lands Charter Implementation Framework, setting the stage for delivering on the promise of the Charter
- Support for Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago to transition to sustainable blue economies
- Launched new Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transitions Action Group on Rural Electrification and Energy Access
- Met or made ‘good progress’ against 100 per cent of performance indicators

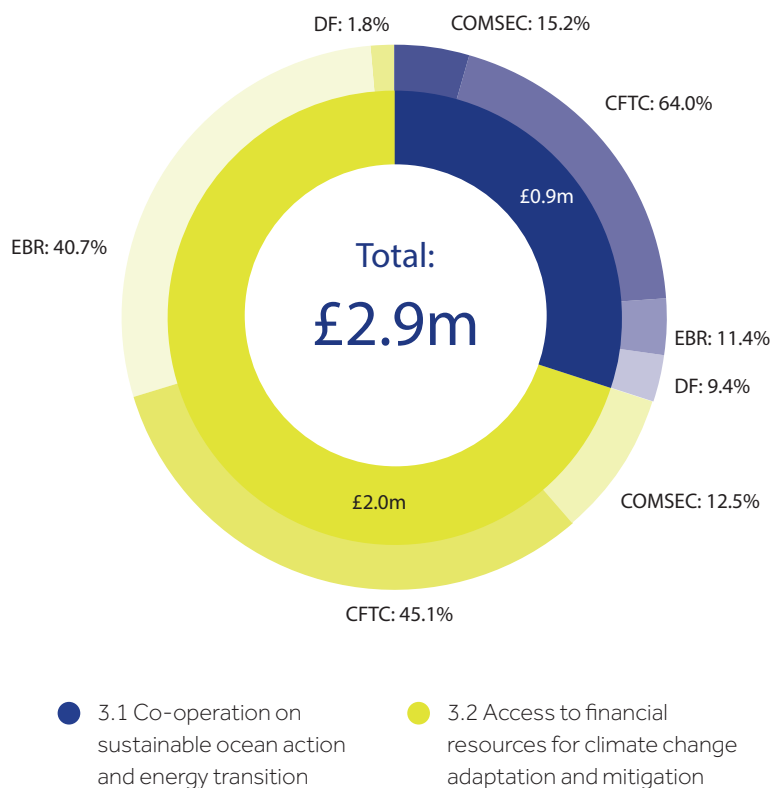


Figure 3.1: Actual expenditure in Resilience and Climate Action impact pathway (£GBP), by fund, unaudited, 2023/24

Table 3.1: Resilience and Climate Action projects and relevant mandates

Project name	Mandate
Commonwealth Blue Charter	2018 and 2022 CHOGM mandates
Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition	2022 CHOGM Communiqué paras 64, 69
Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub	2022 CHOGM Communiqué para 55
Commonwealth Living Lands Charter	Commonwealth Call to Action on Living Lands
Commonwealth Sustainable Urbanisation Programme	2022 Declaration on Sustainable Urbanisation

Small and Other Vulnerable States

2 programmes

- **'Small States Advocacy'**
4.1 Policy positions advanced in global governance mechanisms
- **'Reducing Small States Vulnerability'**
4.2 Reduced vulnerability to shocks and improved fiscal sustainability and access to financing

Notable achievements

- Convened Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting, Central Bank Governors Meeting and UN Small States Advocacy Champions alongside IMF/World Bank Annual Meeting
- Convened Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting at IMF/World Bank Annual Meeting
- Convened two Advocacy Champions meetings at IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings
- Advanced Commonwealth position at Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States
- Technical assistance in diaspora investment for The Gambia and Kenya

- 4.1 Policy positions advanced in global governance mechanisms
- 4.2 Improved fiscal sustainability and access to financing

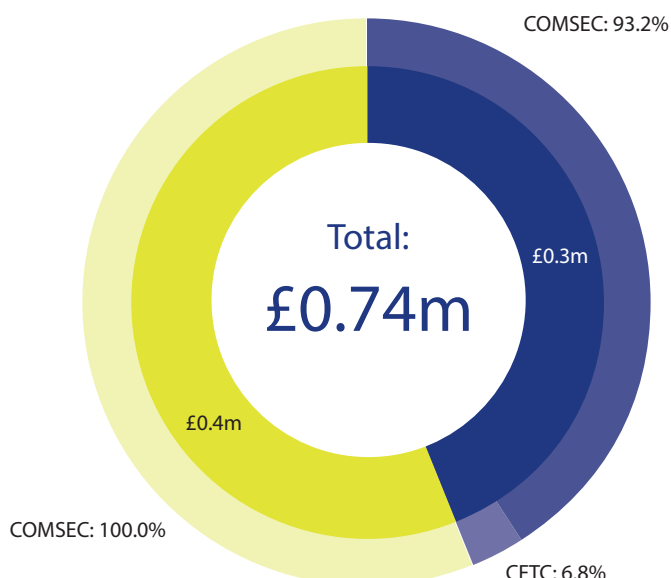


Figure 4.1: Actual expenditure in Small and Other Vulnerable States impact pathway (EGBP), by fund, unaudited, 2023/24

Table 4.1: Small and Other Vulnerable States projects and relevant mandates

Project name	Mandate
Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué paras 33, 41, 42
Advocacy Strategy for Small States	CHOGM 2018 Communiqué para 21; CHOGM 2022 Communiqué para 41
Virtual Centre for Small States	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué para 42
Supporting Fiscal Sustainability and Improving Access to Finance	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué paras 41, 42
Economic and Vulnerability Analysis	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué paras 41, 42

Cross-cutting Outcomes

2 programmes

- **'Youth Empowerment'**

CC1 Effective participation and equal opportunities for youth in leadership, governance, economic and social development enhanced

- **'Gender Equality'**

CC2 Gender disparities and violence against women and girls reduced

Notable achievements

- Year of Youth celebrated across the Commonwealth
- Convened a Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting in The Bahamas
- Convened National Women's Machinery in the wings of UNGA
- Convened Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in London
- Technical assistance to Lesotho on gender-responsive budgeting
- Technical assistance to Botswana on youth mainstreaming
- Technical support to Pakistan on youth entrepreneurship
- Progressed work on Youth Development Index
- Met 100 per cent of performance indicators

- CC1 Effective participation and equal opportunities for youth in leadership, governance, economic and social development enhanced

- CC2 Gender disparities and violence against women and girls reduced

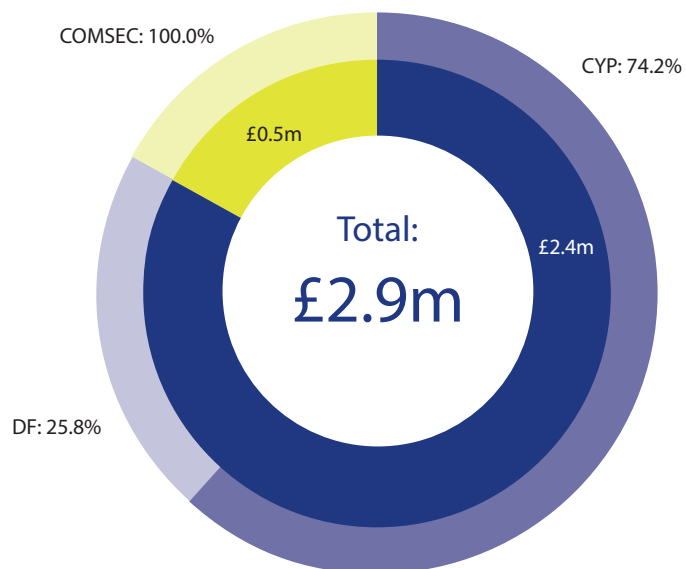


Figure 5.1: Actual expenditure on cross-cutting outcomes (EGBP), by fund, unaudited, 2023/24

Table 5.1: Small and Other Vulnerable States projects and relevant mandates

Project name	Mandate
Youth Mainstreaming, Participation and Inclusion	Kigali Declaration on Child Care and Protection Reform
Professionalisation of Youth Work	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué paras 57, 89, 91, Cross-Cutting Outcome I
Youth Skills Development and Economic Empowerment	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué paras 57, 89, 91, Cross-Cutting Outcome I
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	CHOGM 2022 Communiqué para 27, Cross-Cutting Outcome II

Catalytic Outcomes

2 programmes

- **'Innovation and Digitisation'**
CI: Enhanced use of technology, innovation and digitalisation
- **'Partnerships'**
CII: Delivery through co-creative partnerships increased

Notable achievements

- Kenya Innovation Week Commonwealth Edition
- Partnership process automated
- Accredited Organisation logo designed and approved
- Secretary-General's dialogue with Accredited Organisations delivered
- Met or made 'good progress' against 100 per cent of performance indicators

- CI: Enhanced use of technology, innovation and digitalisation
- CII: Delivery through co-creative partnerships increased

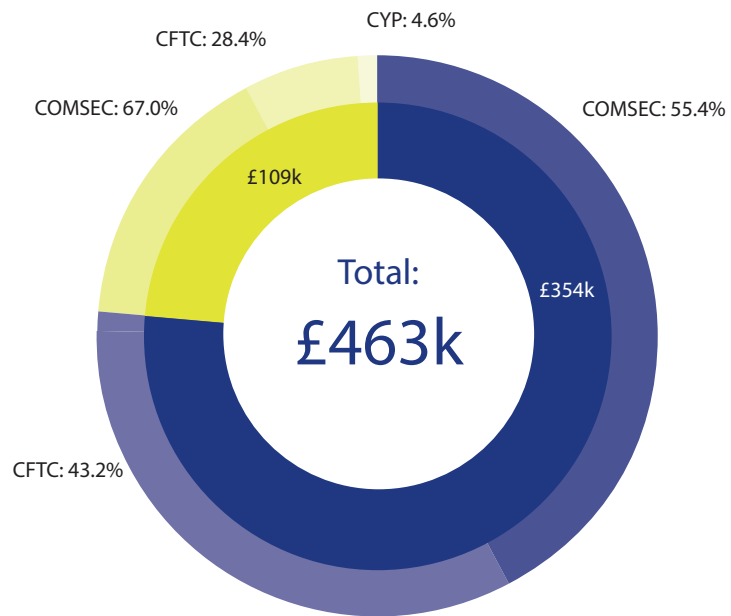


Figure 6.1: Actual expenditure on catalytic outcomes (EGBP), by fund, 2023/24