Overview
The Commonwealth is a group of 56 independent countries, working together towards shared goals of development, democracy, and peace. Our combined population is 2.6 billion, of which 60 per cent are under the age of 30. In 2018, approximately one in two Commonwealth citizens were internet users.

However, the rise of cybercrime is a growing concern for Commonwealth citizens, one predicted to cost the world $10.5 trillion annually by 2025. To combat this threat, Commonwealth Heads of Government adopted the Commonwealth Cyber Declaration in 2018 to support the development of a cyberspace that promotes social and economic development and protects digital rights.

From 2018 to 2023, the Commonwealth Cyber Programme, supported by the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, assisted around 1,000 officials from 55 Commonwealth countries in realising their countries’ goals of enhancing cyber resiliency, focusing on five priority areas.

1. Building Cyber Resilience in Africa
   - We reviewed the cyber resilience capabilities of Botswana, the Gambia, Namibia and Kenya, and recommended legislative changes aligned with international standards.
   - Similarly, the Gambia drafted a Cyber Bill in response to our recommendation, which is currently being considered for adoption.
   - Our Africa Cyber Fellows Scheme has helped 12 African countries strengthen their cybersecurity capabilities.
   - We trained 51 Kenyan magistrates in 2021 and 40 Zambian officials in 2022 to strengthen their cybercrime investigation and prosecution skills.

2. Enhancing Understanding of Electronic Evidence in the Caribbean
   - Between 2018 and 2020, we trained more than 80 judges, investigators and officials from eight Commonwealth Caribbean countries on electronic evidence and cybercrime prosecution techniques.
   - In partnership with Regional Security System, our training helped 13 Caribbean law enforcement officials gain certification in cybersecurity.
   - Our efforts have resulted in the development of guidelines and operational protocols for collecting electronic evidence and supporting cross-border prosecutions in CARICOM Member States.

3. Enhancing International Co-operation
   - Thirty-five countries from Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Caribbean have joined our activities to strengthen co-operation on cross-border cybercrime investigations.
   - We have established a directory of 46 electronic evidence focal persons from different Commonwealth countries to facilitate co-operation against cybercrime.

4. Promoting Election Cybersecurity Frameworks
   - We worked with the Election Management Bodies of Ghana, Pakistan and Trinidad and Tobago to improve their cybersecurity frameworks for delivering secure elections.
   - About 52 officials from 38 African, Asian Caribbean and Pacific countries benefitted from our election cybersecurity workshops.
   - We developed a Good Practice Guide that offers countries tried-and-tested solutions to tackle cybersecurity issues during elections.

5. Enabling Cybersecurity Knowledge Exchange
   - Between 2020 and 2023, we organised 10 conferences to raise awareness and facilitate policymaking among 405 judicial officers, prosecutors and law enforcement officials on cybercrime and cybersecurity.
   - Our six reports, covering issues such as elections and online safety, helped countries strengthen their anti-cybercrime legislative, policy and institutional frameworks.
   - We produced guidance on the treatment of electronic evidence in criminal proceedings to help countries adopt the Commonwealth Model Laws on Electronic Evidence.
   - Our Commonwealth Cybercrime Journal and Cybercrime Casebook provide analyses of the latest trends and cybercrime cases to inform policymaking.
   - Our e-learning platform enables judges, police officers and prosecutors to learn about the collection, authentication and admissibility of electronic evidence.
   - Working with partners, we supported the revision of the International Trade Union’s National Cybersecurity Strategy, a reference model for national cybersecurity strategies.
   - We played a key role in updating the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime’s Model Law on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, which will influence revisions to the Commonwealth Model Law on Electronic Evidence.