



# Fast Facts:

## Commonwealth Cyber Programme

### 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.
- With our support, in 2023, **Namibia** introduced its **National Cybersecurity Strategy and Awareness Creation Plan 2022-2027**.
- 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**.