

# Annual Results Summary Report

July 2022–June 2023



The Commonwealth

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COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

# Annual Results Summary Report

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# Foreword from the Secretary-General

## **The past year has been one of progress and consolidation, growth and partnership, mourning and celebration.**

This year we lost our greatest champion, Her late Majesty the Queen, and gained as our new head a true advocate for and leader of our Commonwealth family, His Majesty King Charles. We start this reporting year in a period of transition, following on from the success of CHOGM 2022 in Rwanda and yet looking forward eagerly to our next CHOGM in Samoa next year.

And during the year we have seen real success. We have worked hard to support our member states by providing a wide range of technical assistance, engaging in and enabling peace processes, building institutional capacities and policies, providing thought leadership, and securing consensus on key issues including trade, gender, health, climate change and leadership. This Annual Results Report includes significant achievements, not just in terms of numbers and statistics but also in terms of the positive impact we have made for the governments we serve and to the communities they represent. The report for 2022/23 is testimony that the Secretariat, even when faced with financial and political pressures, can continue to be responsive, relevant and resilient.

As ever it is an enormous honour to lead the Commonwealth Secretariat as Secretary-General through this period of reform, innovation and growth. As I reflect upon this year of multiple global crises, amplified by the persistent health and economic legacies of a worldwide pandemic,

I am inspired by the passion, resilience and commitment I have seen across the Commonwealth. While the problems seem formidable, our Commonwealth Secretariat has been working with our member states to provide much-needed technical assistance and deliver programmes to help catalyse a capacity for adaptability and global solidarity, while paving the way for leadership that is forward-thinking and value driven.

In the midst of these challenges, our Annual Results Report underscores our dedication to sustainability and corporate responsibility, showcasing our efforts to make a positive impact in these trying times. I have witnessed, within our organisation and among our partners, the commitment to take forward the values of our Commonwealth Charter and mandates from our Commonwealth Heads of Governments.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your unwavering support and belief in our leadership, our strategy and our Commonwealth. I invite you to explore this Annual Results Report, to celebrate our year and join us to shape the journey that lies ahead.



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



# Introduction

## It is my pleasure to put forward the Commonwealth Secretariat's 2022/23 Annual Results Report.

Covering the second year of our 2021/22–2024/25 Strategic Plan, this report highlights successes and challenges in the delivery of the Secretariat's 44 approved projects over 15 programmes implemented in or with member countries by the Secretariat's technical teams in the financial year July 2022–June 2023. It is also a reflection of our commitment to transparency, accountability and responsiveness to the needs of our stakeholders.

This report is presented in two parts. The first is an illustrated summary of key achievements, which has also been provided as a separate document to brief members on the Secretariat's progress in 2022/23. The second part is the substantive results report which includes information on delivery context, progress on intermediate outcomes, technical overviews on key performance indicators across strategic outcomes, and a financial progress report. The annex reports on the indicators of change from the detailed results framework as outlined in Secretariat's delivery plan.

Our Annual Results Report includes evidence-based data as well as case studies and feedback on our outreach and impact on our member states. It showcases our shared values, the strength of our partnerships and the dedication of our talented teams. Most importantly, it serves as a testament to the Commonwealth Secretariat's commitment to transparency, accountability and continuous improvement.

The success we have achieved in 2022/23 would not have been possible without our trusted Senior Management Committee led by our esteemed Secretary-General, the Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland KC, and the guidance and support of our Board of Governors under the leadership of the Chair of the Board of Governors, Her Excellency Linda Scott, High Commissioner for Namibia.

Together, we have demonstrated that the Commonwealth Secretariat continues to be a leader, setting the standard for excellence. Together we offer you this report in hope that you will continue to engage with us about our past achievements and future aspirations.



**Joshua Setipa**

Senior Director, Strategy,  
Portfolio, Partnerships and Digital,  
Commonwealth Secretariat



# Summary

In 2022/23 the Commonwealth Secretariat prioritised the delivery of the 2022 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting mandates, in alignment with agreed Strategic Plan outcomes.

In this second 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 2023, 95 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.

The Secretariat has continued to ensure 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).

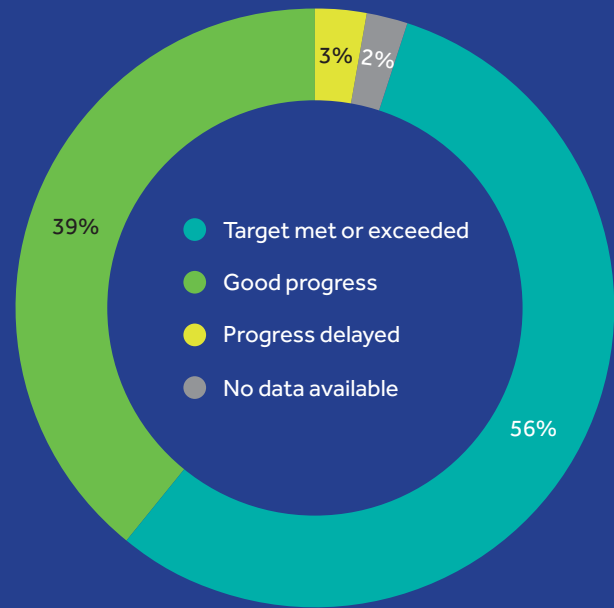


Figure A.1: Delivery Status of Intermediate Outcomes, June 2023

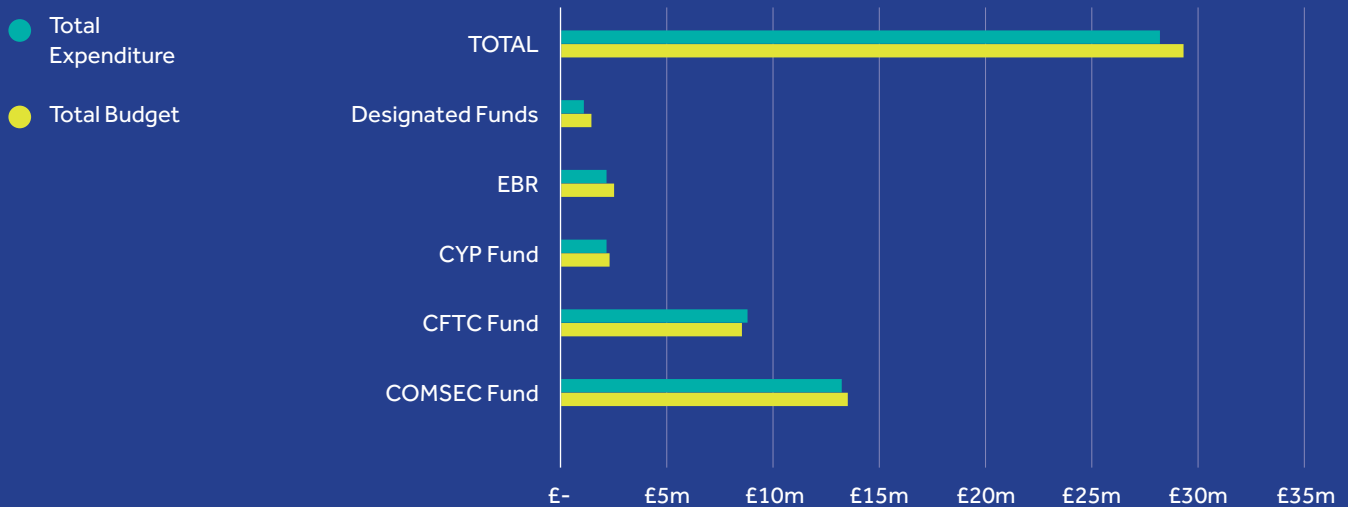


Figure A.2: Direct Budget Performance by fund, and total, 2022/23

The 2022/23 Annual Results Report highlights successes, challenges and progress in the delivery of the Secretariat's programme of work across the 15 programmes and 44 projects by the Secretariat's technical teams. These programmes, expenditure on them and the proportion of that expenditure met by Extra Budgetary Resources (EBRs) are outlined in Figure A.3 below.

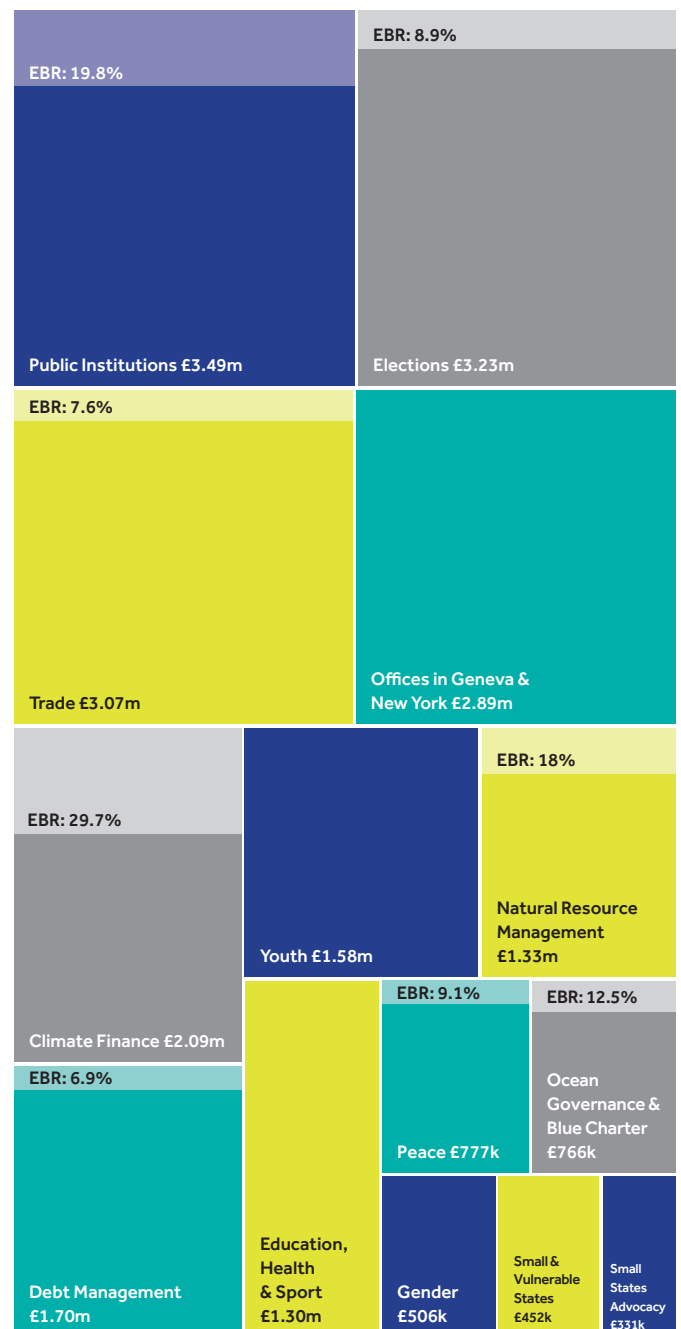


Figure A.3: Expenditure (and proportion of expenditure met by EBR) by Intermediate Outcome (EGBP)

Collaborative efforts leveraging partnerships at national, regional and international levels, including with Commonwealth Accredited organisations,<sup>1</sup> remain instrumental in catalysing Strategic Plan outcomes. The Secretariat has also emphasised partnerships as a critical lever to respond to emerging requests. In 2022/23 the Secretariat mobilised £2.4 million in EBRs from partners – including member countries, government bodies, private entities and other multilaterals – for initiatives within the Strategic Plan.

In June 2022, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, heads set out new mandates and requested the Secretariat to redouble efforts in areas of existing mandates included in the 2021/22 – 2024/25 Strategic Plan. Following CHOGM 2022, in 2022/23 the Secretariat identified actions for delivery in Commonwealth Leaders' Statement; in 40 paragraphs across the CHOGM 2022 Communiqué; in the 2022 Commonwealth Call to Action on Living Lands; in the 2022 Declaration on Sustainable Urbanisation; and the 2022 Kigali Declaration on Child Care and Protection Reform. This alignment is outlined in the Strategic Results Framework table opposite, with specific references to which area delivers on CHOGM outcomes.

In 2022/23, the Secretariat advanced **peace and democracy** outcomes through the convening of four high-level meetings to advance Commonwealth Heads of Government commitments, and enhance intra-Commonwealth collaboration to address the urgent development challenges facing the 2.5 billion people of the Commonwealth.

In **Sri Lanka**, we trained government officials, civil society and young people on peace-building, diversity and inclusion. We deployed Commonwealth Election Observation Groups supported by the Secretary-General's Good Offices in **Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria and Sierra Leone**, and strengthened the capacity of election officials in the Pacific and in the **Caribbean and Americas**. In **Asia and the Pacific**, capacity-building was provided to over 120 law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges and magistrates to advance the Commonwealth Cyber Declaration mandated by the Commonwealth Heads of Government.

The Commonwealth Law Ministers met in person for the first time in three years: they adopted the Commonwealth Plan of Action on Access to Justice and endorsed the Commonwealth Principles on Freedom of Expression and the Role of the Media in Good Governance. In **Belize**, the Secretariat helped substantially reduce the civil court backlog by deploying four judges. In **Mauritius**, we built the capacity of over 500 police and prison officers to apply human rights-based approaches to policing. In **Guyana, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda and Saint Kitts and Nevis**, we convened meetings of anti-corruption officials and leaders to share best practice. Legislative development support in this period included a final review of the revised Enterprise Risk Management Policy in **Botswana** and support to **Lesotho's** National Reforms Authority to enhance its capacity.



The Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2022, Kigali, Rwanda

<sup>1</sup> <https://thecommonwealth.org/organisations>

## Strategic Results Framework

Strategic Pillars					
Strategic Plan Outcomes/CHOGM Communiqué paragraph numbers	Democracy & Governance	Sustainable Development	Resilience & Climate Action	Small & Other Vulnerable States	
	1.1 Member countries effectively utilise mechanisms to further adherence to Commonwealth values and Principles  CHOGM Communiqué paragraphs 12, 26	2.1 Effective trade policy, increased competitiveness and co-operation  Paras 43, 44, 46, 48	3.1 Enhanced intra-Commonwealth co-operation on sustainable ocean action and energy transition  Paras 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70	4.1 Policy positions advanced in global governance mechanisms  Paras 33, 41, 42	
	1.2 Member countries conduct fair, credible and inclusive elections  Para 14	2.2 Sustainable public finance and debt management  Paras 35, 36	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	4.2 Reduced vulnerability to shocks and improved fiscal sustainability and access to financing  Paras 41, 42	
	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	2.3 Sustainable, equitable, transparent and effective management, governance and use of the ocean, energy and natural resources  Paras 64, 68, 69			
		2.4 Inclusive and resilient education and health systems  Paras 22, 82, 87, 95, 97; Kigali Declaration on Child Care & Protection Reform			
	Cross-cutting Outcomes				
	Youth Empowerment	CC1 Effective participation and equal opportunities for youth in leadership, governance, economic and social development enhanced  Paras 57, 89, 91, 92, 93	Gender	CC2 Gender disparities in access to political, social and economic rights and violence against women and girls reduced  Para 27	
	Catalytic Outcomes				
	Partnerships Paras 31, 98, 108				



To advance **sustainable development**, and specifically trade, we convened the second Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting to reflect on opportunities for co-operation and progress objectives in advance of CHOGM 2024 in Samoa. We undertook evidence-based analysis to support least developed countries (LDCs) in their preparations for and participation at the Fifth UN Conference on the LDCs and implemented a joint project with the UN Conference on Trade and Development to assess the intellectual property rights implications for graduating LDCs. We published 14 knowledge products to support members with their trade policies, including a major report on sustainable production and trade in the Commonwealth, and organised various events to examine Commonwealth trade opportunities or to support global advocacy on the challenges facing our members, especially small states and LDCs. We supported **Maldives** with its trade in sustainable fisheries. Our trade advisers at the Commonwealth Small States Office in Geneva continue to support members to engage more effectively in negotiations on existing, new and emerging trade issues at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and facilitate their fuller integration and participation in the multilateral trading system. The Commonwealth Caucus of WTO Ambassadors met for the fourth time in Geneva, convened by **New Zealand**.

We provided comprehensive analysis and capacity-building to support **Pakistan** to make evidence-based decisions as it embarks on free trade agreement negotiations. We engaged with agribusiness small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in **Belize** and supported women's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in **Cameroon**, assisting them to assess pricing, the competitive landscape and market opportunities. In **Tanzania**, we made the case for further support to SMEs in partnership with the Federation of East African Freight Forwarders Associations. A South–South, peer-to-peer learning exchange took place between aquaculture business owners in the Pacific and senior officials of leading industries in **Mauritius**.

After several years of technical assistance on **debt management**, the Reserve Bank of **Fiji** launched a Central Securities Repository. The roll-out of the Commonwealth Meridian debt management system gathers pace, and technical assistance for comprehensive debt management reform in **The Bahamas** is approaching completion. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the Secretariat continues to support the development of a Public Debt Management Act. To support member countries with best practice in debt transparency, the Secretariat has developed a **Handbook on Public Debt Transparency** providing a practical blueprint to assist debt managers and stakeholders in improving transparency in debt management operations.

To support and enhance debt transparency in member countries, we are continuing to deploy Commonwealth Meridian in the 42 member clients that use our debt management systems to improve efficiency and quality of debt data recording and dissemination. Of the 42 member clients, 35 have initiated the deployment process, of which 16 have fully adopted Commonwealth Meridian.

We worked with **Belize, Guyana, Malawi** and **Vanuatu** to revise their petroleum policies, acts, regulations and model contracts. Support in mining reform was provided to **The Bahamas** and **eSwatini** and capacity-building in deep-sea mining to **Cook Islands, Fiji, Ghana, South Africa** and **Tonga**. Following a huge oil discovery in **Namibia**, we provided support to develop national field development plans and guidelines, built capacity to help ensure that the discovery benefits all citizens, and advised on revisions to the country's Petroleum Act, Regulation and Model Petroleum Agreement.

To enhance **ocean governance and maritime boundaries**, draft ocean policies for **Anguilla** and **Montserrat** were finalised in this period and a National Maritime Transportation Policy for **Antigua and Barbuda** was completed. Draft maritime zone legislation for **Guyana** was submitted for consideration, and progress was made in **Seychelles** in negotiations on marine boundary delimitation.

To advance social development and particularly **health and education** outcomes, the Secretariat continued to support the progress of the Mental Health Bill in **The Bahamas**. We advanced non-communicable disease prevention legislation in **Nauru**, **Solomon Islands**, **Tonga** and **Tuvalu**. Together with Lancet Oncology, we launched the Cancer in the Commonwealth Lancet Commission to assess the state of cancer control provision and funding in the Commonwealth. The Secretariat soft-launched the **Commonwealth Education Leaders Handbook** in **Kenya** and convened education leaders in **Mauritius**. The Secretariat also convened the Commonwealth Education Ministers Action Group, which resulted in the launch of partner-led action groups to advance education outcomes.

Commonwealth Sports Ministers met in Birmingham, UK, advancing child protection and safeguarding through the **Model Legislative Provisions on Preventing the Abuse of Positions of Trust**. Technical assistance was provided to **Saint Kitts and Nevis** to support the development of a National Sports Policy. In partnership with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Secretariat developed **The Global Sport and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Impact Report**, complemented by an interactive dashboard illustrating how sport contributes to the SDGs. The Commonwealth Blue Charter Project Incubator was launched, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, with eight promising projects selected for funding.

In the Secretariat's work to **enhance ocean protection and climate resilience**, we advanced blue economies in **Antigua and Barbuda** and **Trinidad and Tobago**, trialling a new Rapid Readiness Assessment tool to better understand how prepared their national systems, structures and stakeholders are to transition to blue economies. We signed an MOU with the International Maritime Organisation to boost sustainable maritime transport.

The **Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH)** continues to go from strength to strength. A 150 per cent increase in funding mobilised has brought the total to US\$350 million, supporting 77 approved adaptation, mitigation and cross-cutting projects in 19 Commonwealth small and other vulnerable states. The monitoring of the youth and gender outcomes of these projects was enabled through the adoption of an evaluation tool to collect disaggregated data and track the extent to which CCFAH is achieving objectives in this area.

Taking forward gender mainstreaming, CCFAH facilitated the submission of two gender-specific funding proposals, for **Mauritius** and **Namibia**. Following the launch of **Gender Integration for Climate Action: A Review of Commonwealth Member Countries Nationally Determined Contributions**, the Secretariat started a Phase 2 study with further recommendations on how to build effective gender-responsive national climate finance systems.

On biodiversity, taking forward the Heads of Government mandate, the Secretariat drafted and circulated the implementation plan for the Commonwealth Call to Action on Living Lands for consultation with members. This considers key developments across the three Rio conventions, including the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27), the Loss and Damage Fund and the Montreal–Kunming Global Biodiversity Framework from the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15).





To advance the **Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition (CSET) Agenda**, the Secretariat hosted the third biennial CSET Forum, with 29 Commonwealth countries represented. A focus of this was ensuring a strong inter-generational approach in recognition that young people are essential stakeholders in creating solutions for energy transition. To further this approach, a Children and Youth Challenge was launched to inspire participation and innovation in energy transition in local communities, led by young people.

We had a strong presence at **COP27** in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, convening 16 side events on a range of topics, including resilient food systems, health and climate, the Commonwealth Living Lands Charter, the Commonwealth Blue Charter, CCFAH, CSET and networks such as the Commonwealth Youth Climate Network. Critically, the Secretariat's presence at COP27 enabled us to champion and advocate for the needs of small and other vulnerable states and to build on CHOGM commitments to scale up action and financing to address loss and damage and keep the Paris Agreement 1.5°C target alive.

Commonwealth Finance Ministers met to discuss current macro-economic challenges and reiterate the need for a new financial architecture that supports the needs of **small and other vulnerable states**. Ministers agreed to form a working group to provide strategic direction to Commonwealth efforts to shape this new financial architecture so that it can be flexible, relevant and adaptive to crisis. Commonwealth Central Bank Governors were convened for the first time in four years to discuss strategies to tackle inflation driven by geopolitical tensions and disruptions in global supply chains. The Secretariat and the UN continued to implement the advocacy strategy on small states, with 15 countries stepping forward as Small States Advocacy Champions. As part of its efforts to foster consensus and collaboration on new finance architecture and

innovative financing for sustainable development, the Secretariat engaged in the High-Level Ministerial Working Group and held a side event on Innovative Financing Initiatives for Effective Debt Restructuring during the 2022 IMF/World Bank Spring meetings, attended by 48 Commonwealth member countries.

Progress to **empower youth** included the launch of a new mainstreaming course to better enable staff, member countries and other stakeholders to identify opportunities and tools to support youth development. Taking forward the CHOGM outcome on youth digital skills, the Secretariat launched the Caribbean Youth Digital Skills initiative in partnership with Simplilearn, aiming to reach 10,000 young people in the coming years. The Aspiring Youth Programme, which provides dedicated support, including capacity-building and mentorship for 300 youth entrepreneurs in the Caribbean, was launched in partnership with the Caribbean Community. We also inaugurated the Commonwealth Year of Youth in January 2023, with a Commonwealth Youth Leaders' Summit and Commonwealth Youth Conference convened.

The Secretariat continued its support to **Lesotho** and **Seychelles** on eliminating violence against women and girls and applying gender-based budgeting.

To improve our evidence base and inform future programming, the Secretariat initiated country evaluations, with field missions conducted in **Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Cameroon, Fiji, The Gambia, Lesotho, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Solomon Islands, Tonga** and **Tanzania**. These evaluations assess the impact of our programmes and enable us to learn valuable lessons on our comparative advantage and value-addition to member countries.

# CFTC Highlights 2022/23



Figure A.5: Global highlights 2022/23

## Europe

### Cyprus

- Meridian debt management system onboarding and institutionalisation

## Asia

### Maldives

- Climate Finance Advisor in position
- Supported sustainable fisheries
- Meridian debt management Meridian system onboarding and training

### Sri Lanka

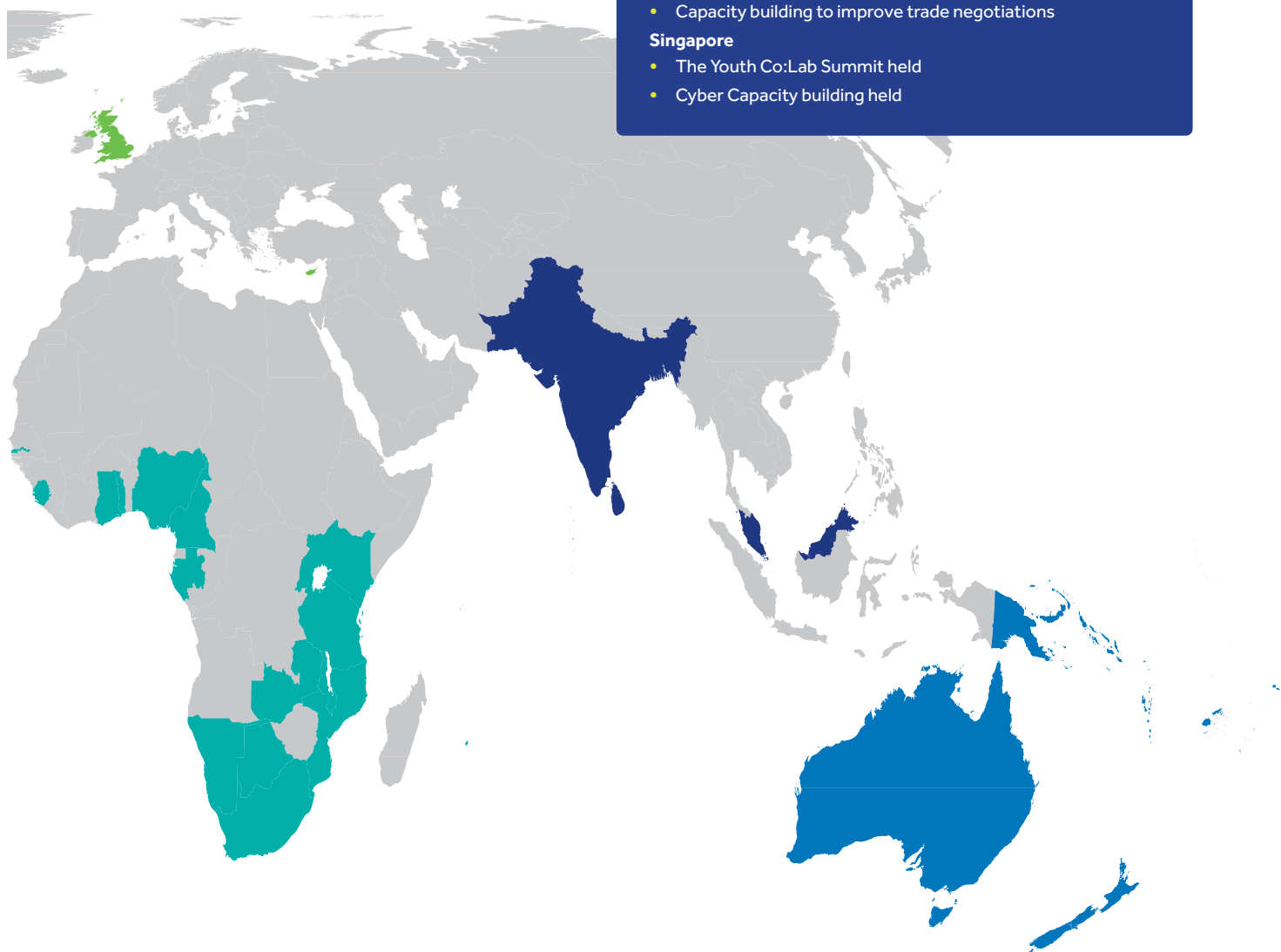
- 40 young people sensitised on to how to engage with the UN human rights system

### Pakistan

- Capacity building to improve trade negotiations

### Singapore

- The Youth Co:Lab Summit held
- Cyber Capacity building held



## Pacific

### Region-wide

- Climate Finance Advisors in position in Fiji, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
- Launch of the Pacific Commonwealth Alliance for Youth Entrepreneurs network
- Non-Communicable Diseases legislative support to Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Tonga
- Regional Commonwealth Election Professionals Programme capacity building
- Meridian debt management system onboarding and training in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

### New Zealand

- Partnering with new Ministry of Disabled People to improve the rights of people with disabilities.

# Highlights of the Year 2022/23

Jul  
2022



Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting

Aug  
2022



Commonwealth Observer Group (COG) monitors the Kenyan general election

Oct  
2022



Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting

Nov  
2022



Commonwealth attendance of COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt



Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting

COG monitors general election in Lesotho

Dec  
2022



Kenya Innovation Week 2022

COG monitors general election in Dominica

Jan  
2023



COG monitors general election in Antigua and Barbuda

Feb  
2023



COG monitors presidential  
election in Nigeria

Mar  
2023



Commonwealth Foreign Affairs  
Ministers Meeting

Commonwealth  
Youth Leaders'  
Summit

May  
2023



Commonwealth Leaders Summit  
and Spouses Event



Health Ministers Meeting

Apr  
2023



Events at 2023 World Bank  
Group/IMF Spring Meeting

Jun  
2023

3rd Biennial Commonwealth  
Sustainable Energy Forum

COG monitors general election  
in Sierra Leone



Commonwealth Trade  
Ministers Meeting

# Strategic Outcomes Summary





# Democracy and Governance

3 programmes, aligned to

3 Intermediate Outcomes:

- **'Peace and Democracy'**

1.1 Member countries effectively utilise mechanisms to further adherence to Commonwealth values and principles

- **'Elections'**

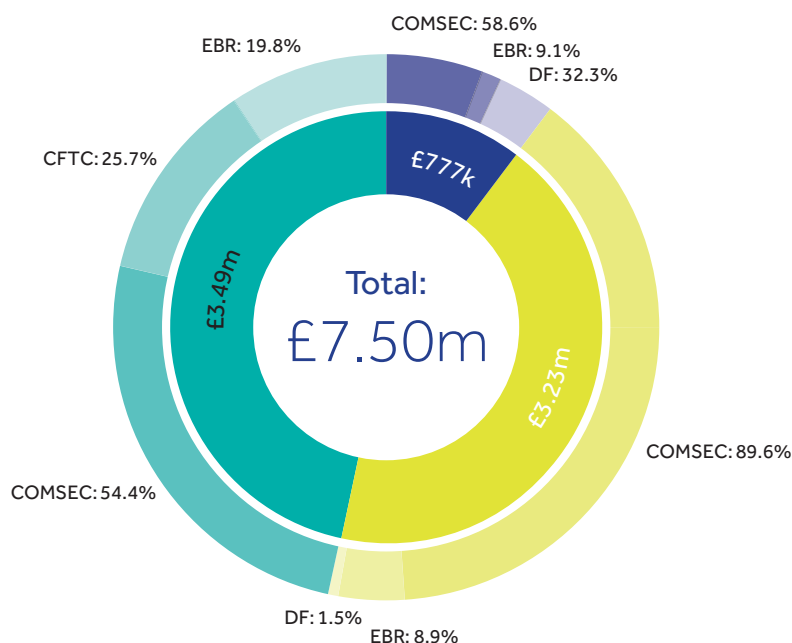
1.2 Member countries conduct fair, credible and inclusive elections

- **'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 Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting, Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting, Leaders' Summit and concurrent Spouses' Programme and Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group Meeting
- Observed six elections
- Strengthened the capacity of 44 election professionals in the Pacific and the Caribbean and Americas
- Trained over 500 law enforcement officials in Mauritius on the role of human rights in policing
- Substantial reduction in case backlog through deployment of four judges in Belize
- Built capacity of 128 law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges and magistrates in the Pacific and Asian regions to advance the Commonwealth Cyber Declaration



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: Expenditure in Democracy and Governance impact pathway (EGBP) by fund, 2022/23

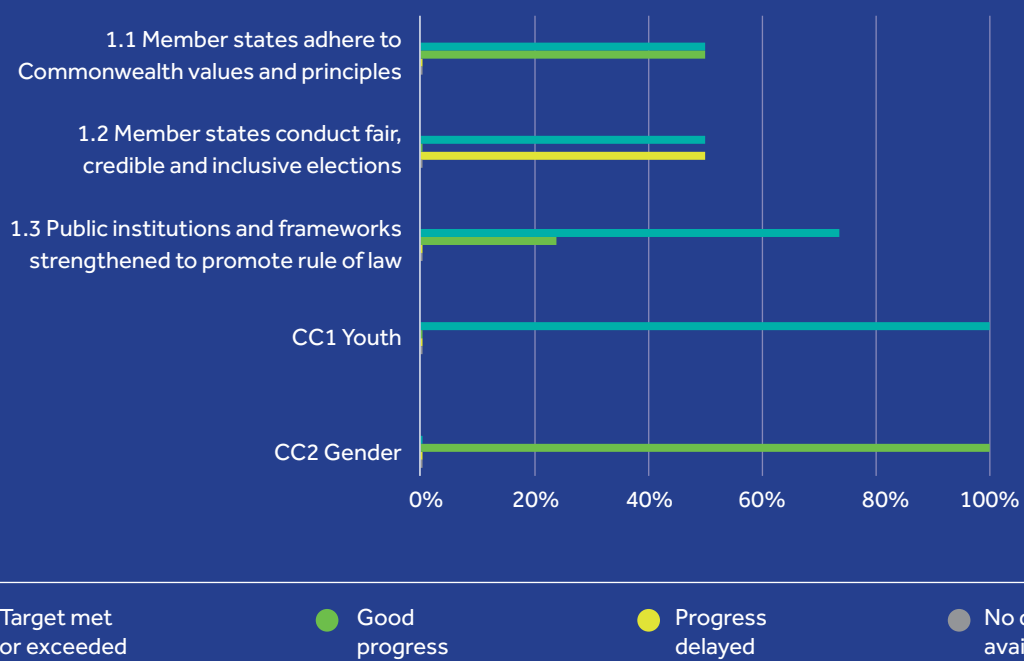


Figure 1.2: Delivery status of intermediate & cross-cutting (CC) outcomes in Democracy and Governance, June 2023

# Sustainable Development

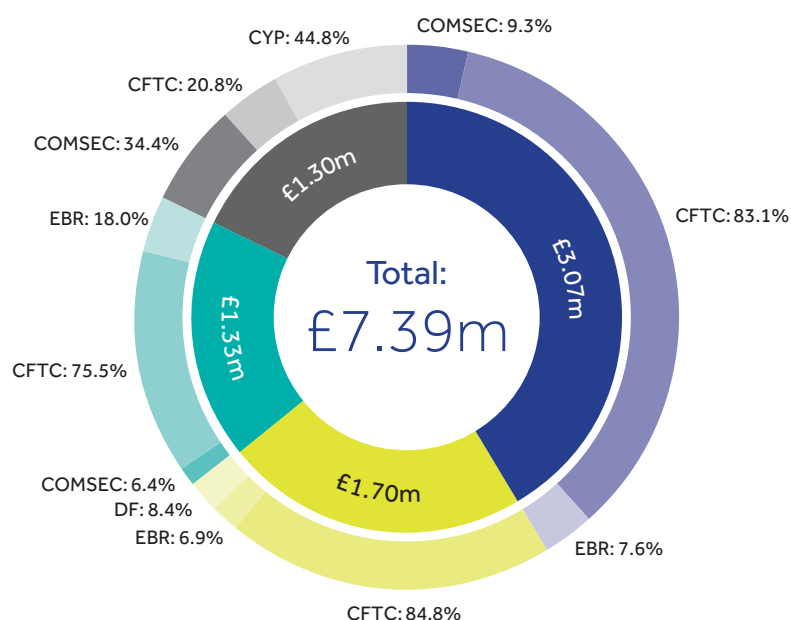
4 programmes, aligned to

4 Intermediate Outcomes:

- **'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

- Convened Sports, Health, Trade and Education Ministers
- Gave trade support to LDCs and small states, especially Maldives, on fisheries
- Produced and disseminated knowledge on sustainable production and trade best practices in the Commonwealth
- Supported micro, small and medium enterprises in Cameroon, Mauritius and Tanzania, targeting youth and women
- Supported debt management legislation and implementation in The Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago
- Facilitated adoption of the Petroleum Policy in Malawi and the Environmental Regulations in the Cook Islands
- Strengthened the capacity of 185 government officials on effective management of natural resources
- Assisted with developing draft ocean policies for Anguilla and Montserrat
- Assisted with drafting a maritime transport policy for Antigua and Barbuda
- Contributed to progress in Seychelles in negotiations on maritime boundary delimitation
- Adoption of Commonwealth Meridian in 16 countries for improved debt transparency



- 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: Expenditure in Sustainable Development impact pathway (EGBP) by fund, 2022/23

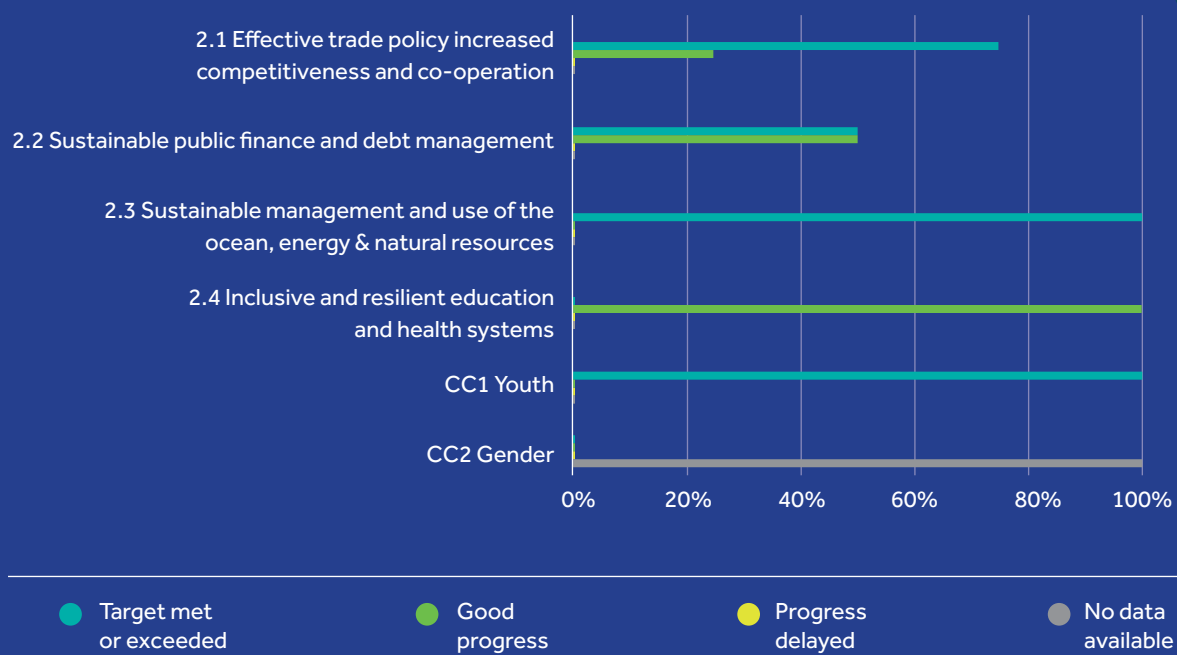


Figure 2.2: Delivery status of intermediate & cross-cutting (CC) outcomes in Sustainable Development, June 2023

# Resilience and Climate Action

2 programmes, aligned to

2 Intermediate Outcomes:

- **'Sustainable Energy Transition and Blue Charter'**

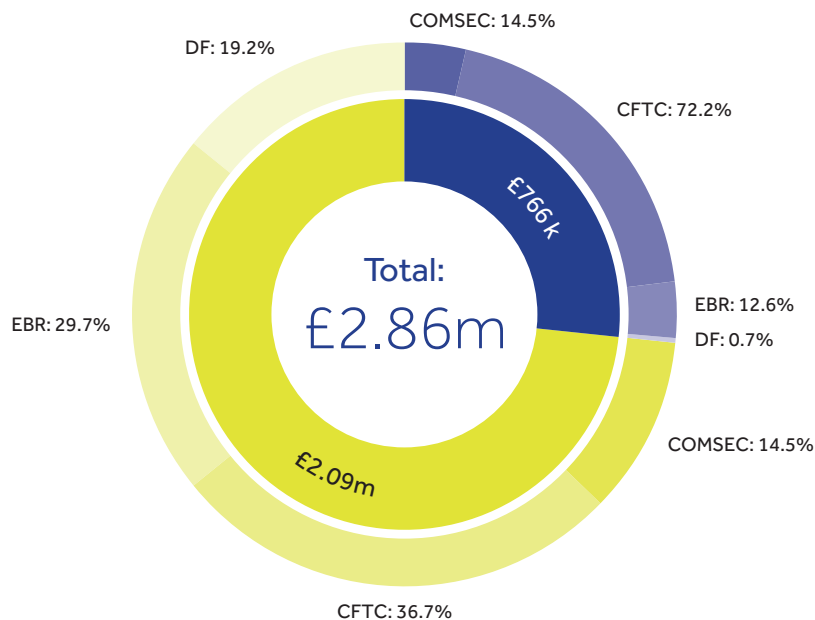
3.1 Enhanced intra-Commonwealth co-operation on sustainable ocean action and energy transition

- **'Climate Change'**

3.2 Enhanced access to financial resources, technology and capacities for climate change adaptation and mitigation

## Notable achievements

- Advocacy advanced at COP27 and the UN Biodiversity Conference COP15
- Support for Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago to transition to sustainable 'blue' economies
- First five projects selected for the Commonwealth Blue Charter Incubator funding
- 150 per cent increase in climate finance funding secured for climate change adaptation
- Advancing the Commonwealth Sustainable Transition Agenda through the Third Biennial Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition (CSET) Forum



3.1 Co-operation on sustainable ocean action and energy transition

3.2 Access to financial resources for climate change adaptation and mitigation

Figure 3.1: Expenditure in Resilience and Climate Action impact pathway (EGBP), by fund, 2022/23

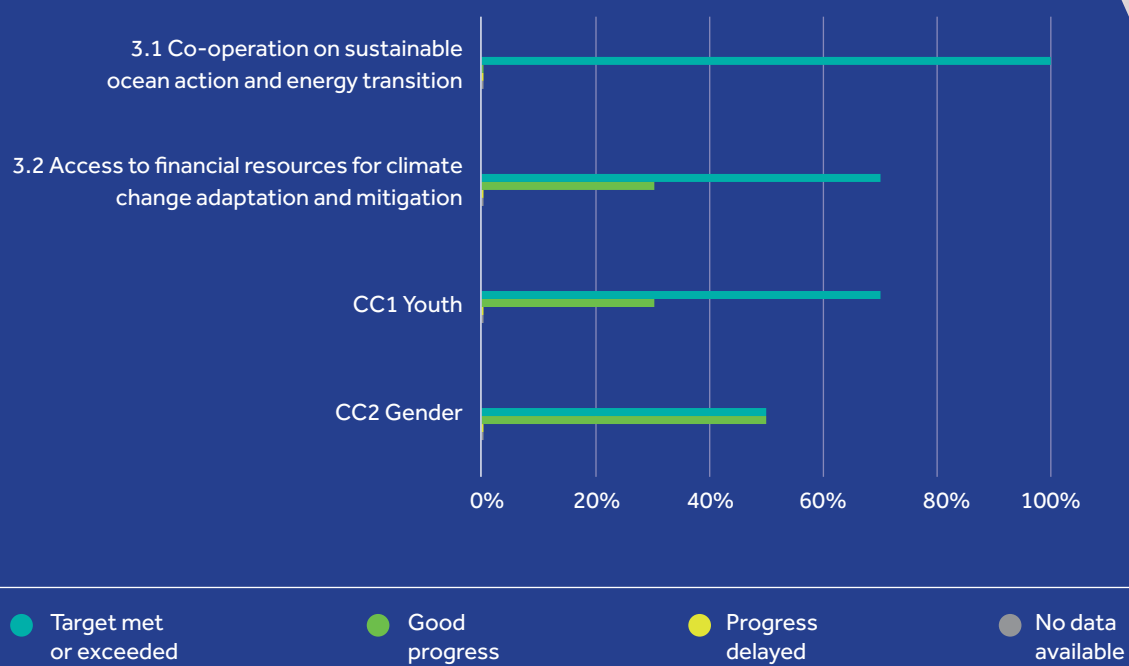


Figure 3.2: Delivery status of intermediate & cross-cutting (CC) outcomes in Resilience and Climate Action, June 2023

# Small and Other Vulnerable States

2 programmes, aligned to

2 Intermediate Outcomes:

- **'Advocacy for Small and Other Vulnerable States'**

4.1 Policy positions advanced in global governance mechanisms

- **'Reducing Small States Vulnerability'**

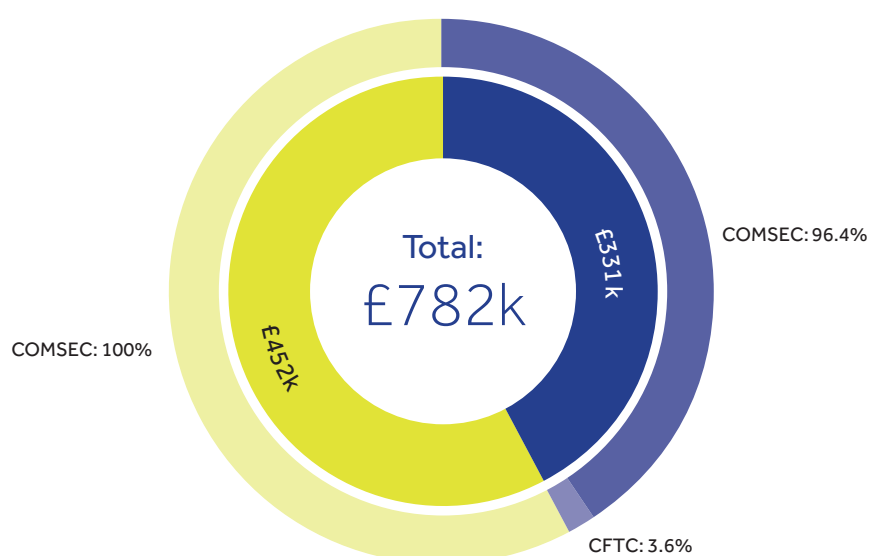
4.2 Reduced vulnerability to shocks and improved fiscal sustainability and access to financing

## Notable achievements

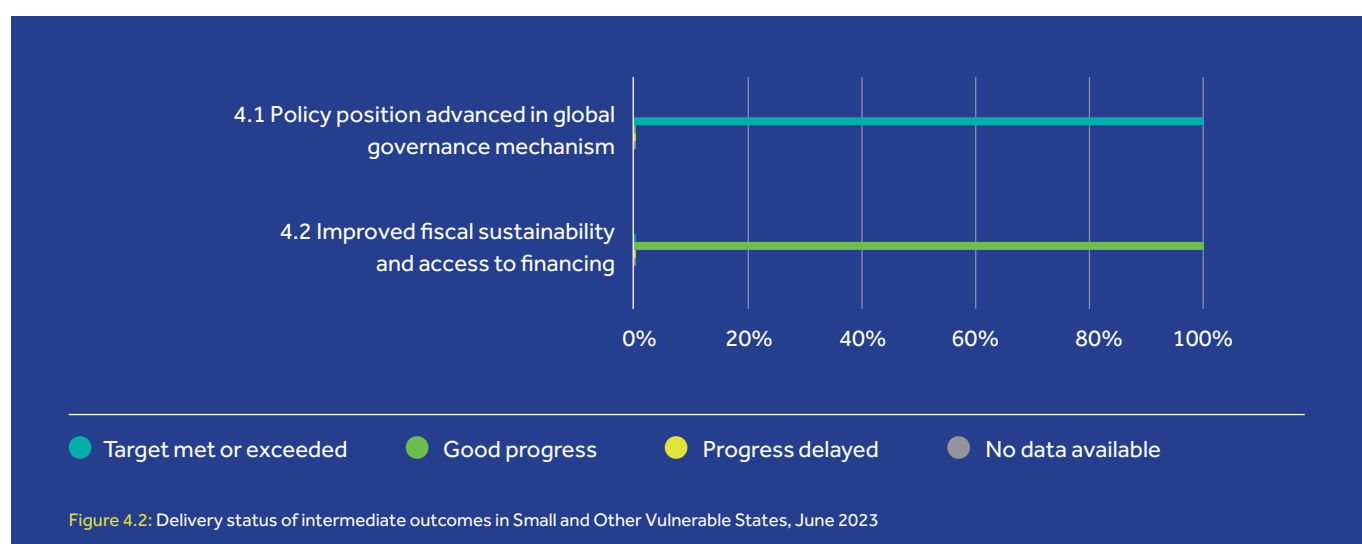
- Commonwealth Finance Ministers and Commonwealth Central Bank Governors convened
- Advancing the UN–Commonwealth Advocacy Strategy Towards Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

4.1 Policy positions advanced in global governance mechanisms

4.2 Improved fiscal sustainability and access to financing



**Figure 4.1:** Expenditure in Small and Other Vulnerable States impact pathway (EGBP), by fund, 2022/23



**Figure 4.2:** Delivery status of intermediate outcomes in Small and Other Vulnerable States, June 2023

# Cross-cutting Outcomes

## 2 programmes, aligned to 2 Cross-Cutting Outcomes:

- **'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

- Launch of the Year of Youth 2023
- Convening of both the Youth Work Conference and Youth Leaders' Summit
- Youth mainstreaming modules launched to support mainstreaming across the Secretariat and within member countries
- Launch of the Caribbean Youth Digital Skills programme, supporting 10,000 young people in the Caribbean
- Launch of the Aspiring Youth Empowerment Programme, to provide 300 young people with the critical skills needed to succeed in jobs or set up businesses
- Needs assessment in Lesotho to improve gender-responsive budgeting and end gender-based violence
- Needs assessment in Seychelles on initiatives to combat gender-based violence and support survivors

- 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

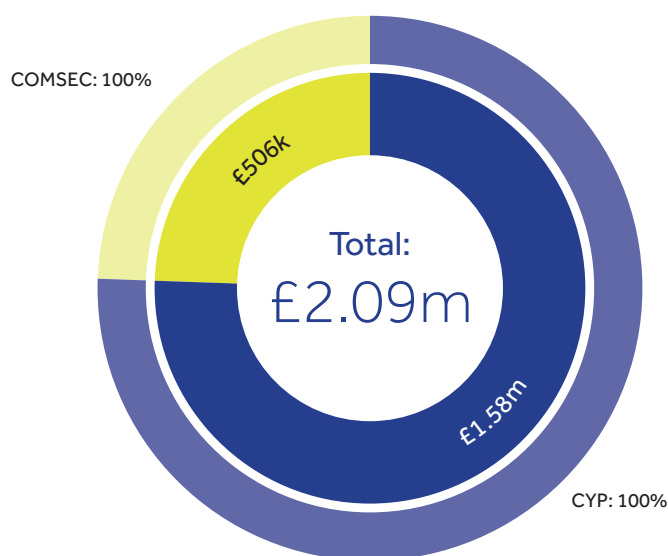
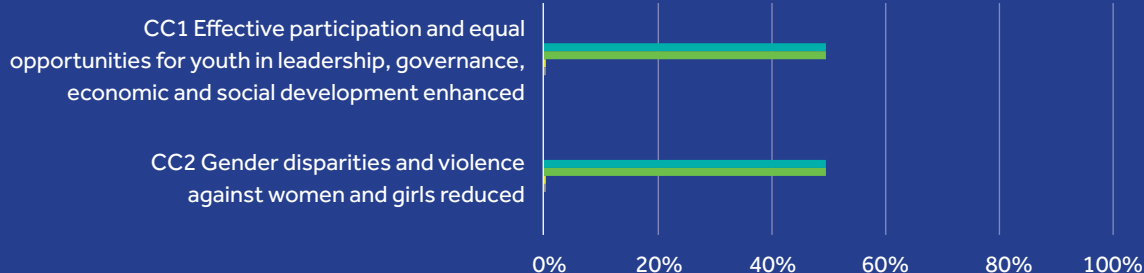


Figure 5.1: Expenditure on cross-cutting outcomes (EGBP), by fund, 2022/23



● Target met or exceeded ● Good progress ● Progress delayed ● No data available

Figure 5.2: Delivery status of cross-cutting outcomes, June 2023

# Financial Performance

**The Secretariat implemented a total of 44 projects during the financial year 2022/2023 programme of work.<sup>17</sup> The Secretariat's total budget for the year ending 30 June 2023 amounted to £41.3 million, out of which £29.3 million was the direct programme budget.**

Of the total direct budget, expenditure was 95 per cent or £28.0 million, resulting in a variance of £1.3 million, of which £0.4 million relates to EBRs and £0.6 million to Designated Funds (DFs).

The total direct budget for the financial year was split between 53 per cent programme costs (£15.1 million) and 47 per cent staff costs (£13.7 million). Total direct budget expenditure of £28.0 million was split between programme costs (£14.1 million, or 50.4 per cent) and staff costs (£13.9 million, or 49.6 per cent).

The composition of the approved direct budget for the financial year 2022/23 was as follows.

## 47%

Commonwealth Secretariat Fund (COMSEC)

## 30%

Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC)

## 8%

Commonwealth Youth Programme Fund (CYP)

## 15%

EBRs and DFs

The £28.0 million direct programme expenditure across the three funds constituted £13.4 million of a planned £13.7 million in COMSEC (97.4 per cent); £9.0 million of a planned £8.7 million in CFTC (103.1 per cent), and £2.2 million of a planned £2.4 million in CYP (91.7 per cent). Figure 7.2 below illustrates the performance of each fund.

<sup>17</sup> The figures in this section reflect those in the Financial Performance section of the unaudited management accounts as at 30 June 2023.

### Financial Performance by Strategic Outcome

Of the total approved direct budget for the financial year 2022/2023, the Secretariat allocated the highest share of the budget to its strategic outcomes amounting to £19.7 million (67.3 per cent of total budget), where expenditure reached £18.5 million (66.1 per cent of the total expenditure). Internal outcomes received a 23.7 per cent share of the budget at £7.0 million with £7.1 million expenditure (25.3 per cent of total expenditure). Figure 7.1 illustrates each outcome's proportion of direct expenditure, and Figure 7.2 illustrates the direct budget and expenditure of each fund.

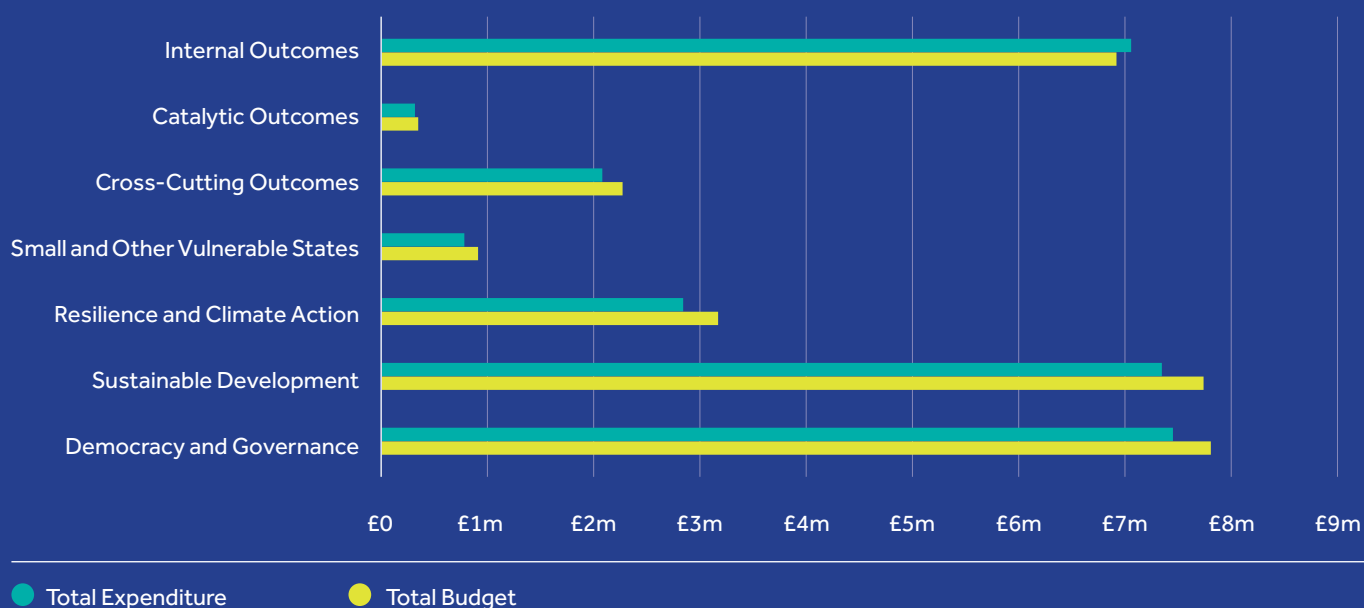
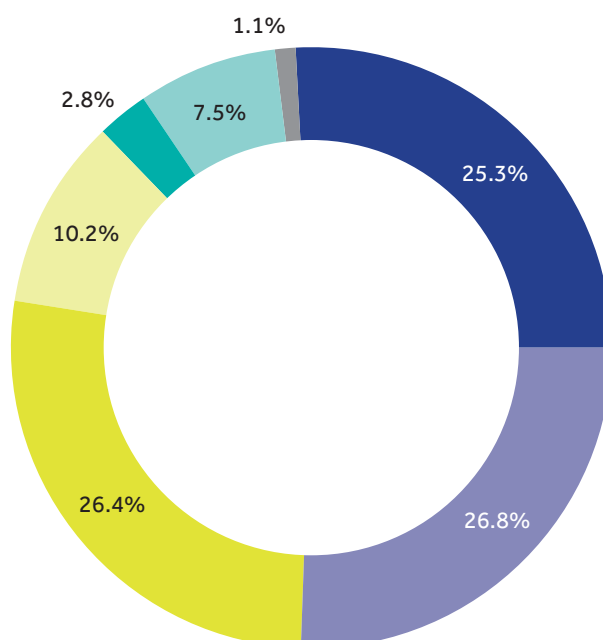
- Internal Outcomes
- Democracy and Governance
- Sustainable Development
- Resilience and Climate Action
- Small and Other Vulnerable States
- Cross-Cutting Outcomes
- Catalytic Outcomes

**Figure 7.1:** Percentage of Direct Expenditure per outcome, 2022/23

### Extra Budgetary Resources and Designated Funds

As described earlier, £2.8 million of the budget had been funded through EBRs, and £1.8 million through DFs. The largest portions of EBRs were related to the Democracy and Governance outcome, with £1.1 million (40 per cent of total EBR funding), followed by Resilience and Climate Action at £0.9 million (32 per cent) and Sustainable Development at £0.8 million (28 per cent).

The majority of designated funds, £0.5 million (29 per cent) were related to Resilience and Climate Action, with £0.3 million budgeted towards monitoring and evaluation activities budgeted across all outcomes, followed by £0.4 million (21 per cent) each in Democracy and Governance and Sustainable Development respectively.



**Figure 7.2:** Combined Programme Delivery Matrix (Strategic Outcomes), 2022/23







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