

JANUARY 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022

ASEC RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Biennial Progress Evaluation Report



PREPARED BY: ASEC MONITORING & EVALUATION UNIT

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Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the Monitoring & Evaluation Unit within the African Sisters Education Collaborative at Marywood University.

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On the Cover: Past Visiting Scholars with CARA & ASEC Staff, June 2022 Conference on the History of Women Religious, Notre Dame, IN.

To request a full copy of any of ASEC's evaluation reports, please contact tara.lopatofsky@asec-sldi.org.

ASEC Research Initiative

Biennial Progress Evaluation Key Outcomes (December 2022)



RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Since 2019, ASEC has produced 12 scholarly research contributions, 9 of which were academic journal articles.


9 7 Academic Journal Articles Published
2 Journal Articles Under Consideration


2 Doctoral Dissertations Defended


1 Book Chapter Published

WEBINARS + CONFERENCES

Since 2019, ASEC has partnered with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to host research based conferences and webinars for women religious. These offerings have included:

 1st International Consultative Research (ICR) Conference held virtually in September 2020 for 58 scholars representing 12 countries.

 Webinar on the intersection of Charism, Spirituality, Mission, and Ministry in March 2021 for 61 representatives from the national conferences/associations of women religious in the 10 countries ASEC serves and Zimbabwe.

 Planning for 2nd ICR Conference to be held in-person in Kenya, June 2023.



8 CARA-ASEC
Visiting Scholars
Hosted



5 Special
Evaluation Reports
Disseminated



3 Doctoral
Scholarships,
1 Graduate

ONGOING RESEARCH



**Alumnae
Tracer Study
Uganda**

The ASEC Alumnae Tracer Study in Uganda remains on hold due to COVID-19 related delays.



**Congregation
Leaders
Survey**

212 religious superiors, representing 175 congregations completed the 19-20 Superior Survey.



Third Book

ASEC's third book publication remains on hold due to lack of funding and minimal staff resources.

DATABASE DEVELOPMENT



**Programs
Data**

Data has been successfully integrated from all 4 major ASEC programs into 1 central database.



**Database
Process
Manual**

Staff have been trained on use and a Database Process Manual has been developed.



**Data
Inventory**

An ASEC Data Inventory has been maintained as a resource for all stakeholders, including a Metadata Catalog and Code Book.

2022 RICHARD CARDINAL CUSHING MEDAL RECIPIENT



The Research Initiative was recognized for its efforts and awarded the **Richard Cardinal Cushing Medal for the Advancement of Church Research** by CARA, earned through the active support of Church research and possessing an understanding of its uses.

ASEC accepted the award on November 7, 2022 in Washington, D.C., U.S.



ASEC Research Initiative

Biennial Progress Evaluation Report Executive Summary (2021-2022)



The purpose of ASEC’s Research Initiative is to promote research on Catholic sisters in Africa. The initiative is designed to increase African women religious’ research skills, provide opportunities for them to engage in research projects, and develop ASEC as a central repository of data related to women religious in Africa.

A great deal of progress toward the initiative's Objectives for 2025 took place in 2021 and 2022. At the end of 2022 the Research Initiative has met or surpassed the majority of its anticipated output/outcome measures (69%, N = 13). It is anticipated that in the coming two years the remaining output/outcome measures will also be met.

Further, the efforts of the initiative were recognized by the boarder Church research community in 2022 with the receipt of the Richard Cardinal Cushing Medal for the Advancement of Church Research.

Recommendations for the future of the Research Initiative include pursuing the publication of an ASEC journal and focusing efforts on completing the database project. Key findings of the 2021-2022 evaluation include: the importance of collaboration in the success of the ASEC Research Initiative, the integration of all four ASEC programs into the database, and a need for specific staff once again assigned to the initiative.

4 OBJECTIVES



Provide workshop and conference opportunities for sisters to engage them in research dissemination and publication.



Develop opportunities for women religious to engage in collaborative research projects.



Collect, analyze, and share data about African women religious, their historical background, ministries, institutional systems, and impact on human development.



Create a central repository of research data related to sisters, congregations, and national conferences that have participated in ASEC’s programs.

CARA-ASEC Visiting Scholar

Sr. Victorine Atsufui Afi Dorkenoo, SMMC

Country of Residence: Ghana

Credentials: MPhil & MA In Applied French Linguistics

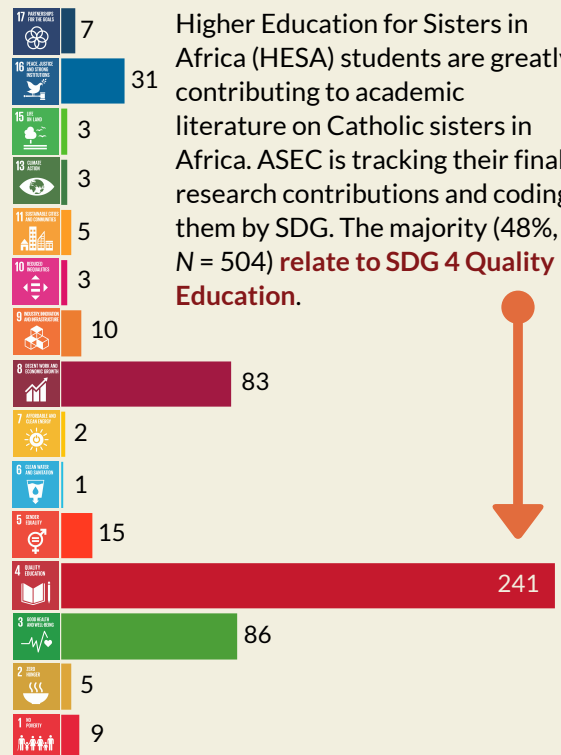
Profession: Deputy Director of Education Ho Municipal Education Directorate

Sister Victorine Atsufui Afi Dorkenoo of the Sisters of Mary Mother of the Church (SMMC) from Ghana completed her fellowship in the U.S. January to December 2022. Prior to being selected as Visiting Scholar, she served as the head of her department and vice principal at two institutions. She has over 25 years of experience teaching secondary and vocational education. Sr. Victorine completed a virtual visit to ASEC’s U.S. Headquarters March 21-25, 2022.



VISITING SCHOLAR

HESA STUDENT RESEARCH



Higher Education for Sisters in Africa (HESA) students are greatly contributing to academic literature on Catholic sisters in Africa. ASEC is tracking their final research contributions and coding them by SDG. The majority (48%, N = 504) relate to SDG 4 Quality Education.

