

JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

ASEC RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Biennial Progress Evaluation Report



PREPARED BY: ASEC EVALUATION UNIT

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ASEC



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January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2020
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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On the Cover: February 2019 Kenya ASEC Book Launch

ASEC Research Initiative


Biennial Progress Evaluation Key Outcomes (December 2020)



SCHOLARLY RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

In the last two years, ASEC has made great progress in producing scholarly research contributions.

 **9** 4 Academic Journal Articles Published
5 Journal Articles Under Consideration

 **2** 2 Doctoral Dissertations

 **1** 1 Book Chapter



CARA-ASEC have hosted **7 Visiting Scholars**



2 special evaluation reports have been completed



1 successful CARA-ASEC Visiting Scholar grant submitted

RESEARCH STUDIES IN PROGRESS



Alumnae Tracer Study Uganda

In 2021, 330 ASEC alumnae from Uganda are anticipated to participate in a tracer study, completed by an independent contractor.



Superiors Survey

150 Superiors will complete the 19-20 Superior Survey, updating key data points and assessing needs.



Pilot ICB Study

1 national conference of women religious will participate in a study on SLDI's pilot Institutional Capacity Building (ICB) program.

PILOT PHD SCHOLARSHIP

In 2020 the ASEC Doctoral Scholarship was piloted at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA). The Research Initiative is working closely with the two sponsored sisters as they complete their dissertations. The sisters' school designations and areas of study include:



CUEA School of Business, financial policy and performance of Catholic Church managed health institutions in Kenya



CUEA School of Education, internal quality assurance at public universities in South Sudan

ASEC DATABASE UPDATES



A complete data inventory has been conducted and an external consultant has been procured to **build an ASEC database** to house program participant information.

HESA data has already been integrated into the new database structure and is currently being tested by HESA program staff. Several staff trainings have been held to facilitate this process.

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIVE RESEARCH (ICR) CONFERENCE



In September 2020 CARA and ASEC collaborated to hold a virtual conference for **58 scholars** interested in conducting research on religious life



98% (N = 58) of conference attendees agreed or strongly agreed that the conference allowed for sharing of research outcomes particularly related to women religious in Africa



Contributions From:

Australia
Cameroon
Kenya
Lesotho
Nigeria
Uganda
Zambia
India
Poland
United Kingdom
Mexico
United States

ASEC Research Initiative

Biennial Progress Evaluation Report Executive Summary



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.

Much learning has taken place in 2019 and 2020 in regards to the best ways forward for the ASEC Research Initiative. In only two years, the Research Initiative has developed greatly and has much more structure than in years past. This growth has resulted in 7 academic publications and 5 pending journal articles, an outstanding achievement for such a short time period.

The ASEC Research Initiative has surpassed most of its anticipated outputs/outcome measures in 2019-2020. Those outcomes/outputs that have not yet been met will continue to be realized in the coming years.

Recommendations for the future of the Research Initiative include pursuing an ASEC journal publication and focusing efforts on completing the database project. Key findings of the 2019-2020 evaluation include: the importance of collaboration in the success of the ASEC Research Initiative, the impact of COVID-19 on research projects, and the successful initiation of a doctoral scholarship.

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's 7th Visiting Scholar Sr. Lucy Dora Akello, LSMIG

Country of Residence: Uganda

Credentials: Doctor of Behavioral & Social Science

Profession: Senior Lecturer, Uganda Martyrs University

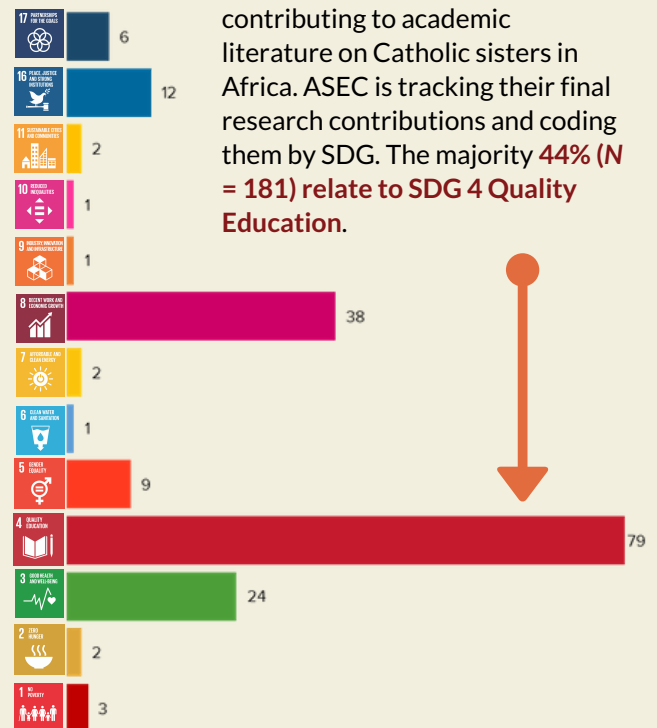
Sister Lucy Dora Akello of the Little Sisters of Mary Immaculate of Gulu in Uganda has been selected as CARA-ASEC's 7th Visiting Scholar. Her arrival to the US was scheduled for August 2020 but has been delayed due to COVID-19.

Sr. Lucy is currently studying remotely with researchers at CARA to prepare for her fellowship. She plans to research the promotion of Ugandan Catholic education in the 21st century, through a national survey and in-depth interviews of diocesan education secretaries.



VISITING SCHOLAR

HESA STUDENT RESEARCH



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 44% (N = 181) relate to SDG 4 Quality Education.