

December 2022

ASEC



AFRICAN  
SISTERS  
EDUCATION  
COLLABORATIVE

# Rays of Hope



Celebrating

Stories of Transformation

# Light the Flame of Transformation with ASEC

By Sr. Draru Mary Cecilia, LSMIG, PhD, ASEC Executive Director

**T**he African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC), is commissioned by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to raise as many funds as possible over the next 3 years. In doing so, ASEC can accelerate its outreach and broaden its impact. The Hilton Foundation is demonstrating its profound support for this mission by **matching every \$1 that is raised by ASEC with a \$1.50 match**. This mission is referred herein after as the "challenge grant." This generous program will certainly move ASEC forward on the path to sustainability, and to achieve its crucial mission to expand educational opportunities for sisters in Africa who continuously are transforming the lives of millions of people in Africa and globally.

The 2022 edition of *Rays of Hope* is rich with information gathered consistently, year over year, which demonstrates the **incredible impact sisters are making on marginalized communities** in the 10 sub-Saharan African countries and the parts of the globe where the sisters serve.

To succeed in meeting the goals of the Hilton Foundation challenge grant, ASEC has engaged the expertise of the Ruotolo Associates, a renowned fundraising consulting company based in Englewood Cliffs, NJ. The path to sustainability will support ASEC efforts to **fan into bigger flames**; the single educational flame lit by the founders of ASEC 23 years ago. Your collaboration to help ASEC meet its goal is now more important than ever before and is greatly appreciated.

## Why Invest in ASEC?

- It is an extraordinary organization started by women religious to empower women in Africa through education, thereby enhancing their capacity to serve the poor and the marginalized, who otherwise live on the margins of society and are deprived of essential educational, health, economic, and social services.

- Every dollar invested in ASEC is directly remitted for educational purposes for women in Africa.
- The impact of a dollar on each ASEC alumna directly assists the people in poor, rural communities and data indicates that the positive outcomes are life-changing.
- ASEC knows how to stretch a dollar! Therefore, one dollar spent on the education of sisters in Africa produces an unparalleled effect on the lives of untold numbers of people. Skill development and practice is evidenced by the fact that **ASEC's 5,400 alumnae and their mentees have raised funds for their ministries totaling to \$22.3 million** in recent years; thus, remarkably exceeding the amount received for their training and education.
- Sisters often labor with limited resources but, despite limitations, make a huge impact by providing mission focused education and social services. The stories of these servant leaders, who dedicate their lives to ameliorate the suffering of humanity, inspire and energize ASEC's commitment.

It is a fact that ASEC is changing the world. To date, the five educational programs of ASEC have served over 8,000 sisters and other individuals. This represents 19% of the total number of sisters in the countries ASEC serves. **Unless the remaining 81% acquire additional education credentials and an increase in skills and competencies, a large majority of the rural population in Africa will be deprived of the essential services** needed to live healthy and productive lives.

**Will you join us to fan the flames of this dramatic effort to further transform the 10 African countries where ASEC currently serves?**



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Draru Mary Cecilia".



## trans-form-ation

In this edition of *Rays of Hope*, we'll explore **transformation**, one of ASEC's six core values.

ASEC provides educational opportunities for women religious in Africa in order to facilitate attainment of their human potential, as well as that of the people in the communities and societies they serve, with special concern for persons most in need.



ASEC program participants give thanks for the education received through ASEC

## ASEC Programs

Our fight against extreme poverty happens in the **most vulnerable communities across Africa**. Sisters serve in areas that are geographically difficult to reach, lack an adequate infrastructure, and suffer from harsh climates, war, natural disasters, disease, and violence. Catholic sisters courageously **seek out the often overlooked and advocate for the underserved**. They are called to go to the hard places. We are called to give them the tools to make a bigger impact.

Programs of African Sisters Education Collaborative, or ASEC (AYE-sek), are always evolving; **molding to fit the specific needs of sisters** serving in the rural and poor communities of sub-Saharan Africa.

### **Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI)\***

SLDI (ES-elle-dee-eye) provides sisters with technology, administration, and finance training through three one-month workshops over three years. Through SLDI, sisters gain the practical skills and confidence to build strong networks and take up leadership roles in their congregations and communities. Since 2007.

### **Institutional Capacity Building (ICB)\***

Housed under SLDI, ICB (EYE-see-bee) supports the internal strength and the external service of national conferences/associations and congregations in Africa as they strive to positively impact human development. The goal of ICB is to strengthen systems and improve the vitality and vibrancy of African women religious. Since 2019.

### **Higher Education for Sisters in Africa (HESA)\***

HESA (HESS-uh) provides opportunities for sisters to access higher education (diploma, undergraduate, and master's degrees). HESA is delivered through partnerships with higher education institutions in Africa and online in the U.S. Since 2013.

### **The Scholarship Program**

The Scholarship Program bridges the gap to higher education for sisters by providing scholarships to complete secondary school or higher education credentials relevant to their ministries. Many of our scholarship recipients then continue their education through the HESA program. Since 2012.

### **Service Learning**

Students and sisters from ASEC founding institutions participate in annual service trips to Africa. Accompanied by mentors, U.S. participants travel to Africa for three weeks and are immersed in a wide range of volunteer opportunities, serving side-by-side with African sisters. Since 2008.

### **Research Initiative\***

The Research Initiative aims to promote research on Catholic sisters in Africa, 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. Since 2010.

*\*Made possible by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.*

# Transformation As Growth in Our Capacity to Serve Others

By Sr. Patricia M. Bombard, BVM, DMin, ASEC Advisory Board Member



Throughout my years in ministry, I have focused on researching and teaching about personal and organizational transformation. As I did so, opportunities arose which led to my current role as director of a project at DePaul University in 2008, centering on the leadership teachings and values of St. Vincent de Paul, the 17th century French priest and Patron Saint of Charity (for whom the university is named).

At the root of Vincent's story of sainthood is his own transformation which unfolds throughout his life. Vincent began life as the son of peasant farmers, a reality that initially dissatisfied him: "When I was a little boy and my father took me to town with him, I was ashamed to walk with him and acknowledge him as my father, because he was poorly dressed and limped a little."

Vincent also told of a day during his seminary studies when his father visited him and he was too ashamed to speak with him: "They came to tell me my father, who was a poor peasant, was asking for me. I refused to go and speak to him."

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***How did a young man with such a prideful, self-serving ego and disdain for his own peasant class transform into someone who dedicated his adult life to serving anyone in need? That is the crux of Vincent's transformation.***

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Vincent's family encouraged him to enter the priesthood because he showed intellectual potential which could mean wealth through lucrative church appointments. Vincent was happy to oblige. However, once ordained, his first encounters with people living in poverty stopped him short. The impact of these encounters led him to a period of contemplation during which he reflected on his values and purpose. **Therein lies a key to transformation: life events become more than simply events. They become pivotal moments of encounter and transformation when examined through reflection, done individually and in consultation with others.**

Last year, I gained further insight into the process of transformation through a book called, *Designing & Leading Life-Changing Workshops* (Nelson et al.) The authors define transformation as "a process of change in our beliefs, attitudes, responses to situations, and in the meaning we make from our perception of experience." This process can result, as was exemplified in the life story of Vincent, in

"a shift in identity that affects how we perceive ourselves and how we show up in the world." The result: "Your sense of identity gets bigger, broader, and more inclusive."

I also encountered the writings of Carolyn M. Shields, a professor of Educational Leadership at Wayne State University in Michigan. Shields is promoting a leadership development model for administrators at all levels of education that she calls "transformative leadership." Her aim is to "create inclusive, equitable, excellent, and socially-just learning environments." As we saw with Vincent, Shields says **growth as a transformative leader begins with reflection on one's own belief structures and values.** With proper attention one will move through critical reflection and analysis and into action. Shields urges transformative leaders to "**deeply search their own belief systems for areas of unexamined bias, challenge their own thinking, and enable others to do the same.**"

Where to begin this process? At the beginning of my leadership courses, I invite my students to reflect on several questions that jump-start their self-awareness and clarity around values and purpose:

- **Who am I?**
- **What is my life purpose?**
- **What are my core beliefs? My core values?**
- **What sources informed my beliefs and values in my early childhood?**
- **What sources inform my beliefs and values today?**

Answering these questions can help spark a transformation of one's life and purpose by shining awareness on what is truly important.

Vincent de Paul is one model of a transformative leader, as are the other leaders mentioned in this article. I am sure there are many more such stories among the Catholic sisters serving in Africa, especially among those being helped to transform themselves and others by their experiences within ASEC.

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## References:

Nelson, K. et al, *Designing & Leading Life-Changing Workshops*. Cliffhouse Press. 2020.

Shields, Carolyn M. "Leading to Transform Our World," *Transformative Leadership in Action: Allyship, Advocacy & Action*, ed. by J. Bruce and K. McKee. Emerald Publishing. 2020.

# Transformation Through Research

By Tara M. Lopatofsky, PhD, CCLS, ASEC Senior Program Manager, Monitoring & Evaluation

ASEC's Research Initiative aims 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.



Through the Research Initiative, ASEC strives to increase the academic literature available on Catholic women religious in Africa and develop sisters as critical investigators. Equipped with investigative skills, sisters will be capable of conducting rigorous research that will strengthen the capacity of their congregations and positively impact human development.

In 2022, ASEC's Research Initiative was recognized for its efforts and awarded the Cushing Medal for the Advancement of Church Research by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). This award is earned through the active support of Church research and possessing an understanding of its uses.

## Research & Publications

The ASEC Research Initiative continued to contribute to the academic literature available on Catholic sisters in Africa. In 2022, the Initiative focused its efforts on publishing academic articles based on data collected from ASEC's 10 countries of operation in 2021. These articles have been published in various peer-reviewed journals, effectively disseminating the work and impact of ASEC to a wider academic audience.

In total, two ASEC-related research articles were published in academic journals, two are currently under peer review, and two are in development. In addition, the Initiative published its third Special Evaluation Report, entitled *Good Health and Well-Being: ASEC's Impact*, which focused on ASEC's alumnae contribution towards achieving the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 - Good Health and Well-Being.

## Visiting Scholar Fellowship

ASEC continued to strengthen its partnership with CARA at Georgetown University through the continued implementation of the Visiting Scholar Fellowship.

The Visiting Scholar, Sr. Victorine Dorkenoo, SMMC, was selected from Ghana and completed her studies in the United States from October 2021 to April 2022. Further, the next Visiting Scholar, Sr. Lucy Dora Akello, LSMIG from Uganda, was finally able to travel to the United States to complete her studies from June to December 2022, after a COVID-19 related travel delay. Progress is also currently underway to select the 9th Visiting Scholar.

## Raising Awareness

The ASEC Research Initiative has made additional strides in developing connections with institutions and research partners with similar objectives. For the second time, ASEC participated in Marywood University's Research Day, presenting to students and faculty members about ASEC's research opportunities. ASEC also presented at the Conference on the History of Women Religious hosted by the University of Notre Dame's Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism. Research opportunities were also shared with faculty teaching in the HESA program at the HESA U.S. Partners Workshop for Research and Cross-Cultural Capacity Building.

## Central Repository of Data

Lastly, ASEC has nearly completed the integration of its organization-wide customized database, which will be greatly beneficial to future research projects. Centralizing ASEC's data in a uniform manner will help pique interest in ASEC related research opportunities going forward.



ASEC Executive Director accepts the Cushing Medal for the Advancement of Church Research in November 2022

# Sisters Across Africa

Windows into the lives of ASEC program participants, alumnae, and staff.



HESA student receives ASEC laptop in Uganda



SLDI Basic Technology Workshop participants celebrate in Malawi



Sisters pose after completing HESA Orientation in Tanzania



ASEC staff visit children at Chechire Homes in Zambia



Sister learns from instructor at SLDI Web Design Workshop in Nigeria



ASEC alumna with her students at the St. Therese Training Center in Kenya



HESA student graduates from the Catholic University of Malawi



Sisters celebrate their SLDI graduation in Kenya



ASEC staff greets child during site visit in Kenya



SLDI alum and her students enjoy the gift of creativity in Lesotho



HESA students at Reflective Learning Workshop in Ghana



ASEC alum poses with her students at Bishop Peeters Memorial College in Cameroon



ASEC sisters host a prayer circle in Nigeria



ASEC Scholarship graduate at the Bigwa Secondary School in Tanzania

# The Impact of Education

Statistics from educating Catholic sisters in 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa show the incredible impact sisters are making on marginalized communities. Because of people like YOU, ASEC has served **over 8,000 sisters & other individuals** with INCREDIBLE results such as...



## 2.4M+ Served

ASEC alumnae have served over 2.4 million people in poor, rural communities across Africa-where help is needed most.



## \$22.3M+ Raised

ASEC alumnae have raised over \$22.3 million in funding for community sustainability and improvement projects.



## 28,200+ Mentored

ASEC alumnae have mentored more than 28,200 people, sharing the skills they've learned through ASEC with others.



## 4,300+ New Jobs

Projects initiated by ASEC alumnae have created over 4,300 jobs in under-served rural African communities.

# The Transformation

Sisters often describe experiencing **personal transformations** after completing an ASEC program. The knowledge and skills they gain enable them to better serve their communities and fulfill the charisms of their congregations.

*Sr Gloria*

"I have been transformed as a person. I have learnt to relate more with people, work as a team, connect with the right people always."

*Sr. Gloria Namutebi, SCSC HESA Uganda*

*Sr Rosemary*

"I look at the experience of learning...as one whose eyes have opened and is able to read a new language of tabs, ribbons and groups on a tool bar. I will forever be grateful for the skills acquired ."

*Sr. Rosemary Mwima, OP SLDI Zambia*

*Sr Catherine*

"Because of the ability I have after obtaining the knowledge, I am now able to work effectively and bring positive changes in my ministry."

*Sr. Catherine Lameck, ISRA Scholarship Tanzania*

*Sr Joyce*

"I have been enlightened in various aspect of computer usage that would help me do many things with ease and also be of service to my congregation and to the people I serve. "

*Sr. Joyce Nyibe Wumbei, FMM SLDI Ghana*

*Sr Lucy*

"The training has opened new horizons for me...one thing I am passionate about is the improvement in the quality of services in institutions that the religious offer."

*Sr. Lucy Dora Akello, LSMIG VS Uganda*

*Sr Juma*

"[HESA] was something I desired to do in order to teach minds, touch hearts and transform the lives of all the young people whom I meet in my classroom and school."

*Sr. Willyckister Juma, FSJ HESA Kenya*

# Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI) 2022 Year in Review

## Highlights

ASEC was awarded a sixth grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to continue the SLDI program through March 2025. SLDI Phase VI officially began on April 1, 2022.

SLDI Phase VI will include the option for sisters to complete a newly developed Leadership Track in Web Design, along with the traditional tracks of Administration and Finance.

SLDI Phase VI will also continue to incorporate a curriculum, originally integrated in Phase V, on social entrepreneurship. The goal of this section of the curriculum is to equip sisters with relevant skills and knowledge in entrepreneurship that will enable them to set up social ventures that yield funds to enable them to execute their congregation's charisms.

A total of **1,123 sisters** (1,122 unique) were served in SLDI Phase V.

Across Phases I-V, sisters have been served **3,639** times by the SLDI program. Phase V served the largest number of sisters to date.



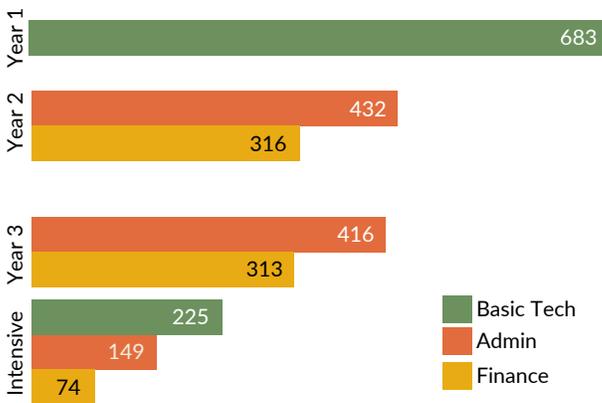
In 2022, **299 new sisters were served in an unprecedented third year of recruitment and one year intensive program consolidation.** This milestone was made possible due to the availability of funds created by the online transition of workshops in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**SLDI boasts an overall (Phases I-V) completion rate of 81%.**

503 workshops have been facilitated to implement SLDI (SLDI, ICB, Alumnae) since 2007.



*Sisters from the SLDI Finance Track hug in Zambia*



## What is SLDI?

The Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI) offers Catholic sisters in 10 African countries the opportunity to enhance their leadership competencies and professional skills in the areas of administration, finance, and technology. The SLDI program collaborates with partner consultants, congregational superiors, and national conferences/associations of women religious to develop and deliver the program, which is typically taught over a three-year period.

Since the program's inception in 2007, SLDI has served 3,618 unique sisters, empowering them to become more effective in their congregations and apostolates. An additional 1,697 beneficiaries were served through other program activities, such as Superior and Partner Workshops, totaling 5,315 individuals served by SLDI.

During their second year of participation in the program, sisters receive a laptop as a professional resource to build sisters' technological capacity and increase the effectiveness of their work. Sisters also use the laptops to share what they learned with additional sisters, colleagues, and others. Alumnae are expected to mentor at least 3 other sisters.

## SLDI Alumnae Success

Alumnae of ASEC's SLDI program have shown incredible levels of success once given the gift of education. **Sisters are able to serve more people more effectively, while sharing their knowledge and creating jobs within their communities.**



SLDI alumnae have served over **2.3 million people**, most in rural areas.



SLDI alumnae secured over **\$22.1 million** to support projects that contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



SLDI alumnae have **created 4,200+ jobs**, aiding in economic growth within their communities.

In addition, **96% (n = 848) of SLDI alumnae report that they are able to effectively use skills learned in the program to benefit their ministries.** While 44% (n = 807) of SLDI alumnae report writing a grant proposal after completing SLDI.

Equipped with a strong foundation of skills, **30% of SLDI alumnae go on to pursue higher education**; 40% of which continue through ASEC's HESA program and/or the Scholarship Program.



SLDI participants graduate in Uganda

## ASEC Alumnae Network

Upon completion of any ASEC program, sisters enter into the ASEC alumnae network. ASEC organizes annual workshops in each of its 10 countries of operation, which provide sisters and their mentees with professional development and networking opportunities.

In 2022, Alumnae Workshops were again offered online to protect sisters from contracting COVID-19 and provide them the convenience of attending the workshops from their homes. Alumnae were permitted to select a workshop to attend from a list of topics to be covered by each, including those hosted by a country outside of their own. Facilitating the workshops in this manner allowed alumnae to participate in workshops that more closely aligned with their professional development goals and/or emerging issues directly impacting their ministry. It also created an occasion for sisters who are now serving in areas outside of ASEC's 10 countries of operation to re-engage in the ASEC alumnae network. In addition, this year an optional two-day extension of each workshop to focus on data use and management was also offered to all alumnae.

SLDI alumnae attendance at 2022 Alumnae Workshops, for the first time since SLDI Phase III, surpassed projected targets. HESA alumnae also attended in unprecedented numbers, continuing to exceed the program's projected targets.

A total of 21 Alumnae Workshops were held from October 2021 to February 2022. The majority of workshops were held online and several countries offered more than one workshop given the large number of alumnae they serve. Workshops varied in length depending on the content and method of delivery.

Overall, the Alumnae Workshops were highly rated in satisfaction. The alumnae most commonly provided the feedback that the Alumnae Workshops were enriching and practical.

## Field Trips

Field trips began in 2015 to provide a “hands on” learning experience for sisters. What makes the experience even more fruitful is that many of the visited ministries/projects are led by SLDI alumnae. Sisters are opened up to the possibilities ahead of them and are able to ask questions to those that have walked before them.

In 2021, due to COVID-19, many SLDI field trips transitioned to “virtual” visits where SLDI participants met with ASEC alumnae on Zoom. However, in 2022 field trips were able to occur in person in countries with eased restrictions. Field trips allow current participants to interact with alumnae and see what they are doing within their respective ministries.



*Sr. Ayumbi Ndeng, Class Representative, working on an assignment during an SLDI workshop in Cameroon*



*Sisters receive laptops in Tanzania*

## Institutional Capacity Building (ICB)

Initiated in 2019, ASEC's Institutional Capacity Building (ICB) program supports both the internal strength and the external service of national conferences/associations and congregations as they strive to positively impact human development. ICB is housed within the SLDI program.

In the ICB program, ASEC recognizes the existing capacity of institutions of women religious in Africa and collaborates in strengthening these systems to improve the vitality and vibrancy of institutions of women religious. The pilot phase of the ICB program concluded in 2022 and the next phase of implementation began.

- 10 Superior Workshops were held in 9 countries across SLDI Phase V.
- National conference and congregation capacity building process continued in Uganda and began in Malawi.
- 1 ICB Convening, which brought together congregational leaders in Uganda, was held in May 2022.

# Higher Education for Sisters in Africa (HESA) 2022 Year in Review

The Higher Education for Sisters in Africa (HESA) program facilitates access to post-secondary education for Catholic sisters in Africa. Since 2013, **more than 1,770 sisters have participated in HESA**, studying for college diplomas, bachelor's degrees, and master's degrees.

ASEC partners with **24 higher education institutions in the U.S. and 10 African countries of operation**. HESA students participate in cohorts of sisters at partner higher education institutions and receive technological and academic support to ensure their success as students, scholars, and women religious.

HESA positions Catholic sisters as leaders of vital ministries, congregations, and communities who address sustainable development in Africa. HESA is funded by the **Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**. The Hilton Foundation supported HESA from the beginning, providing a pilot grant through SLDI in 2012 and program-specific grants since 2013. A third phase of HESA (2020-2024) began on July 1, 2020 and will support at least 522 sisters for undergraduate and master's degrees.

## Enrollments

As of July 1, 2022, approximately **950** sisters were actively enrolled in HESA at partner higher education institutions in 10 countries in Africa. In the 2021-2022 grant year, **HESA welcomed approximately 280** new students who participated in Orientation in preparation for their studies and formed cohort networks at partner institutions.

Recruitment is ongoing and it is **anticipated that approximately 250 new sisters will enroll** in HESA by June 30, 2023.

## Graduations

To date, more than 850 sisters have graduated from HESA with undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. **During the 2021-2022 grant year, approximately 250 sisters graduated** from the following HESA at partner institutions:

- Catholic University of Cameroon, Bamenda (Cameroon)
- The Catholic University of Ghana (Ghana)
- Holy Family Nursing and Midwifery Training College (Ghana)
- The Catholic University of Eastern Africa (Kenya)
- ChemChemi Ya Uzima Institute (Kenya)
- Tangaza University College (Kenya)
- National University of Lesotho (Lesotho)
- Catholic University of Malawi (Malawi)
- Veritas University (Nigeria)
- Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (Tanzania)
- Mwenge Catholic University (Tanzania)
- Saint Augustine University (Tanzania)
- St. Francis Hospital Nsambya Training School (Uganda)

- The University of Kisubi (Uganda)
- Uganda Martyrs University (Uganda)
- Monze Registered Nurse Training Program (Zambia)
- Zambia Catholic University (Zambia)

## Academic Achievements

**Approximately 140 students reported graduating with honors in the 2020-21 academic year. Two sisters received special awards from their institution:**

- Sr. Lydia Mwamba, Little Servants of Mary Immaculate (LSMI), was awarded as the Best Graduating Student in Human Resource Management at Zambia Catholic University in July 2022.
- Sr. Grace Akunna John-Emezi, Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus (HHCJ), received recognition for her role as Faculty Student President in Faculty of Health and Allied Science at the Catholic University College of Ghana, for the 2021-2022 academic year.



*HESA students celebrate their graduation from Veritas University College in Nigeria*

## Partnerships

In the 2021-2022 grant year, **HESA maintained 24 partnership agreements** with higher education partners in the U.S. and Africa. Since July 1, 2021, **seven (7) HESA partnership agreements have been renewed.**

**Framework of Reference (FOR)** agreements were renewed between:

- ASEC & Monze Registered Nurse Training Program (Zambia)
- ASEC & Catholic University of Eastern Africa (Kenya)
- ASEC & ChemChemi Ya Uzima Institute (Kenya)

**Memorandums of Understanding (MOU)** agreements were renewed between:

- ASEC, Marywood University (U.S.) and Catholic University of Eastern Africa (Kenya)
- ASEC, Rosemont College (U.S.) and Veritas University (Nigeria)
- ASEC, Rosemont College (U.S.) and Catholic University College of Ghana (Ghana)
- ASEC, Rosemont College (U.S.) and Catholic University of Cameroon, Bamenda (Cameroon)

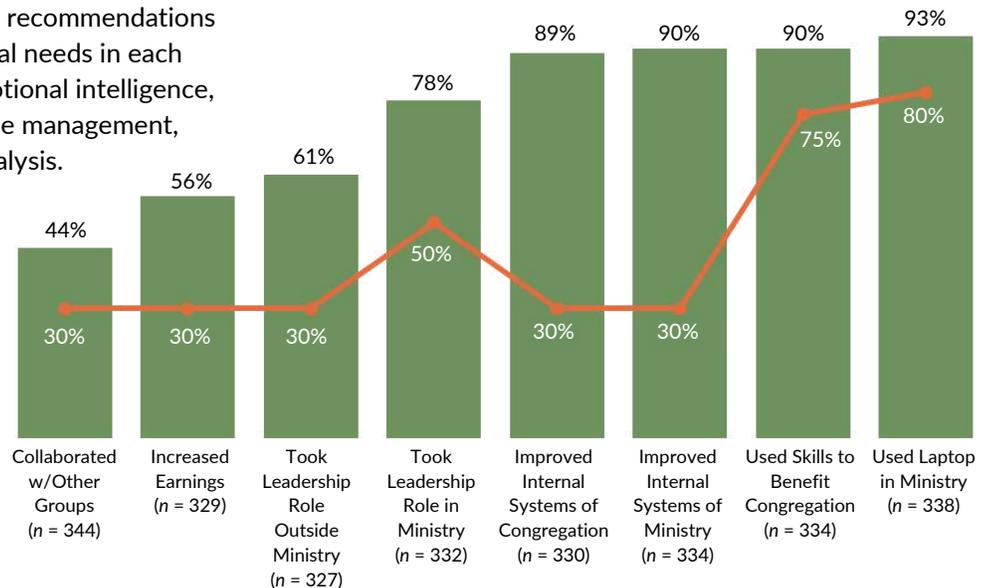
## Reflective Learning

Reflective Learning is an annual workshop that brings together HESA sisters studying at colleges/universities in each country for academic and professional development. In the 2021-2022 grant year, **more than 850 enrolled HESA students participated in Reflective Learning Workshops** in 10 countries; 4 of these workshops were held online due to COVID-19.

Workshop topics emerge from student recommendations and vary according to student and social needs in each country. This year, topics included emotional intelligence, technology use in Church missions, time management, prayer and religious life, and critical analysis.

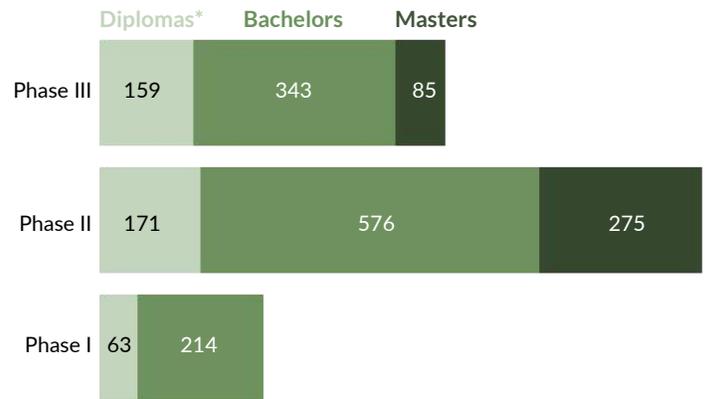
## HESA Alumnae Success

HESA alumnae demonstrated success in 2022 by meeting or exceeding all **projected outcome figures** in the 2022 ASEC Alumnae Survey.



## Levels of Study

In Phases I-III, the majority of HESA sisters have studied for **bachelor's degrees**. **Master's degrees** were added as a study option in Phase II.



\*Includes one certificate



Online-Onsite HESA Students at Orientation in Nigeria

# ASEC Graduation Highlights



27 women supported by ASEC's Scholarship Program graduated from Bigwa Sisters Secondary School in Tanzania (May 2022).



Sisters graduate from SLDI in Lesotho (2021).



HESA students graduate from Monze Nursing School in Zambia (Nov. 2022).



HESA students receive master's degrees during a graduation ceremony at the University of Kisubi in Uganda (Oct. 2022).



HESA students graduate from Veritas University College in Nigeria (Jan. 2022).

# ASEC's Path to Sustainability

By Sr. Nancy Kamau, LSOSF, ASEC Development Director

## Invitation To Collaborate

ASEC cordially invites you to join its efforts to access a challenge matching grant, from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, which will provide \$1.50 for every \$1 ASEC raises up to \$3 million. ASEC's goal is to raise \$2 million within 3 years to unlock this grant. The funds raised plus the matching funds will set a **path to sustainability** enabling ASEC to scale its core education programs and diversify training to include non-religious women in Africa. The vision of ASEC is to be a sustainable organization with a proven ability to collaborate, develop, and deliver educational programs that strengthen the capacity of women religious in Africa. Therefore, the future sustainability of ASEC is an essential part of its mission which is to facilitate access to education for women religious in Africa that leads to the enhancement and expansion of education, health, economic, social, environmental, and spiritual services they provide to their people in local communities.

For over 22 years ASEC has been building the capacities of women religious in 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. ASEC recognizes that education is the best tool for human development and that educating a religious sister has a ripple effect of transforming the lives of millions of people who live on the margins of society; especially rural villages and poor urban areas in which most sisters provide services. To achieve the greatest impact with sustainable transformation, ASEC invests in empowering women religious in Africa through education, to build their confidence and strengthen their capacity to innovatively generate solutions to the development challenges that face their societies. Sisters are deeply trusted by the people they serve, and they provide leadership to these grassroots communities.

Transformation is one of ASEC's core values. It is essential not only for building and maintaining our nonprofit organization, but most importantly, for the sustainability of ASEC's programs that benefit the people of Africa. As we look forward to celebrating 25 years of the existence of ASEC in 2024, it is inevitable to look at the growth of ASEC's programs over the years and the impact the sisters in Africa and their ministries have made in delivery of quality services in these societies.

## How You Can Support Us

As we look to a sustainable future, ensuring our path to sustainability and strengthening the capacity of the growing number of sisters in Africa requires a significant ongoing investment and dedicated funding from you, our friends, supporters, and donors. I invite you to join ASEC's collaborative efforts by:

- Helping us share the story of our life-giving organization.
- Help ASEC access the matching grant from the Hilton Foundation by:
  - increasing your contribution,
  - making pledges,
  - inviting a friend to donate to ASEC.

As the Director of Development, it is my goal to expand the critical support we receive, which is vital to the future of our nonprofit organization. Your ongoing support of and witness to our mission continues to make a real and lasting impact on so many lives. We will continue to share news and details about our initiative and how you can become more deeply involved in supporting ASEC and its vital programs, as well as help us spread this news far and wide.

Thank you for your past and current support. It is only due to the generosity of donors like you that we will be able to celebrate 25 years of ASEC's success in 2024. And when we do, our path to sustainability initiative will have created the financial security to ensure our next 25 years!

**GOD BLESS YOU ALL!**

**Make an online donation through our secure system by visiting:**

[asec-sldi.org/donate](https://asec-sldi.org/donate)

**Or, mail checks made payable to:**

**African Sisters Education Collaborative**

**2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509**

# Invitation from the Development Director

ASEC has a strong and committed Board of Directors that provides long term leadership to the organization and a committed staff to implement program delivery for the sisters in Africa. They evaluate programs and the impact the sisters in Africa make through site visits and sharing of alumnae success stories. These practices have built strong relationships with ASEC's friends, supporters, and donors.

ASEC's transformation is a long-term process. Our mission and vision are enhanced by its strategic plan, evaluations of the programs, and continued research initiatives. The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation has been a major collaborator and leader in the movement to strengthen the sisters' capacity. Both for the HESA program and for the critical leadership and managerial skills through the SLDI program.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges of our times have affected women religious congregations' income. The lockdowns affected the revenue for their ministries and reduced the resources needed to continue supporting training.

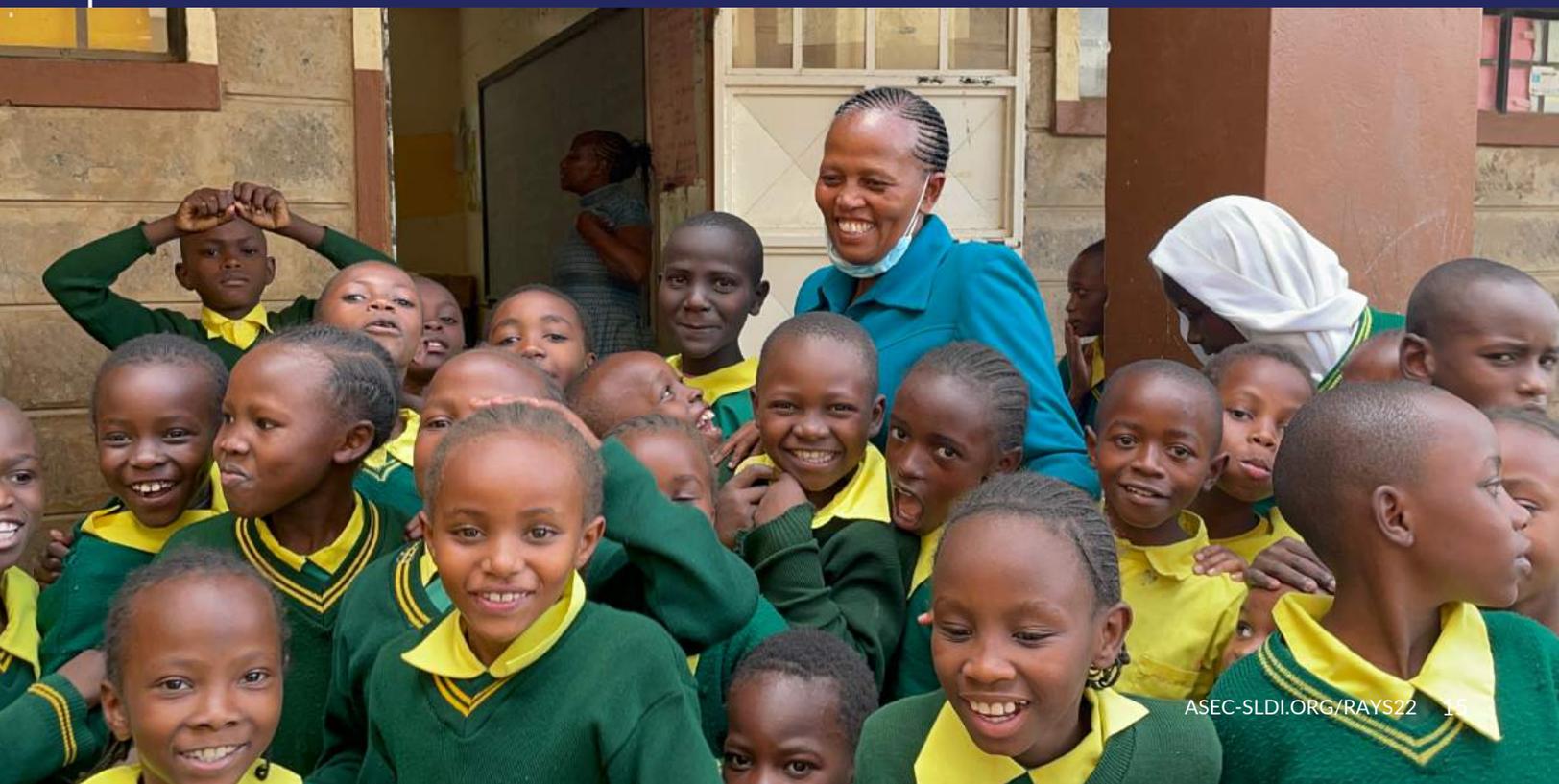
For sustainability of the programs, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation has pledged to match \$1.50 for every \$1 ASEC raises.

**I invite you to help us unlock this challenge matching grant. Every contribution is valuable to us.**

Inevitably, the need to equip sisters in Africa with the knowledge and skills, particularly in social services and healthcare, is vital as these sisters continue to give hope through their services.

The sisters' preparedness to handle diverse challenges, especially for the most vulnerable families, children, women, refugees, and homeless street children, is critical as it empowers and motivates communities to join and strive to work towards the poverty trajectory.

**Sr. Nancy Kamau, LSOSF**  
ASEC Development Director



# Sisters Taking the Lead: Success Stories

## Peace Building

Education opens up opportunities for positive change, but before that, it opens your eyes to the things that need to be changed. That was the case for Sr. Bi Eveline Ambe, Sisters of St. Ann (SSA), who completed SLDI in 2015 and obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Geography from the Catholic University of Cameroon, Bamenda, through ASEC's HESA program in 2021. Through her studies, she said she started learning more about the world - specifically Geography and Environmental Studies, which she described as an "eye opener."

"I read Geography and Environmental Studies which acted as an eye opener to me to pay more attention to the plight of the thousands that had been displaced in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon due to the socio-political crisis which resulted in a humanitarian crisis."

Due to escalated violence which brought the country to the brink of civil war, the first Women's National Convention for Peace took place in summer 2021. Sr. Bi was invited due to her work with a local non-governmental organization. The aim of the convention was to seek sustainable solutions in peace-building by pursuing dialogue, ensuring equal participation of women in all aspects of the process, and providing psychosocial support for healing trauma.



*Sr. Bi had the opportunity to participate in peace talks for Cameroon after completing the SLDI and HESA programs*

After the convention Sr. Bi was invited to form part of the planning committee. She went on to help create "Ambassadors of Peace" clubs in schools so women can contribute in building peace, together, piece by piece, in their country of Cameroon.

Sr. Bi, who is currently an administrative assistant at ASEC's office in Cameroon, expressed gratitude for the gift of education. She shared: ***"Thanks to the education received through the HESA program I was empowered to impact thousands of women and girls in grassroots events and schools by sensitizing women on peace building."***

## Peer Leadership

It has been 21 years since the founding of the Catholic University College of Ghana (CUCG), an ASEC-HESA partner institution. As part of the institution, the Faculty of Health and Allied Sciences provides courses that prepare students to meet challenges facing Ghana's healthcare system. Despite its long history, the student president of the organization had never been a religious woman prior to 2021, when Sr. Grace Akunna John-Emezi of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus (HHCJ), a HESA student earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, changed this statistic.

In her role as president, she oversaw the faculty student body, including those studying general nursing, midwifery, and public health. She was also responsible for overseeing the leadership team, which was composed of 11 students.

The position required a range of responsibilities including

promoting breast cancer awareness throughout the community, account auditing, facilitating a faculty week celebration, and fundraising.

Sr. Grace successfully led efforts to gather funds through saving of student dues, laboratory coat sales, and budgeting. In addition, she has remained an excellent student who is succeeding in her studies.

Sr. Grace credits her success to the time management skills she learned through HESA Reflective Learning Workshops which prepared her to balance her office, prayer life, and studies. She graduated from CUCG with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Nursing in October 2022. Further, due to her exemplary services as the Faculty Student President (2021-2022), the Catholic University College of Ghana awarded her a Certificate of Honor.



*Sr. Grace credits her success to the time management skills she learned through HESA Reflective Learning Workshops*

## Improving University Education

Sr. Janet Christine Kiden of the Missionary Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary (MSBVM), is the first sister to obtain a PhD through ASEC's Scholarship Program. She presented her dissertation in October 2021, entitled: *Implementation of Internal Quality Assurance Policy in Undergraduate Education for Quality Teaching and Learning in Public Universities in South Sudan*.

Through her research, Sr. Janet found a shortage of qualified academic staff, obsolete curriculum, unqualified students admitted into universities, and lecturers using ineffective teaching methods. She identified challenges in universities' implementation of quality assurance policies, including lack of funds, infrequent audits, irregular salaries, and a lack of commitment from academic staff.

With her discoveries, Sr. Janet was able to provide insights to universities to better the quality of education. She recommended a review of education programs by university authorities to ensure the relevance of programs to societal needs. She suggested employment of more qualified lecturers, equipping libraries with updated resources, and providing Wi-Fi to enhance the quality of teaching at universities. By reviewing admission policies, improving infrastructure, reducing class size, and organizing continuing education workshops for academic staff, Sr. Janet's findings are improving the quality of undergraduate education in South Sudan.

The ASEC Scholarship Program launched the doctoral level scholarship in February 2020 due to a lack of doctoral-level degrees held in African countries. Sr. Janet stated that she will use the program planning and teaching skills that she learned through her participation in ASEC upon returning to the Catholic University of South Sudan. She also believes that the skills and knowledge she learned can indirectly help her congregation.



*Sr. Kiden is the first sister to obtain a PhD through ASEC's Scholarship Program*

## Economic Development

Well-trained, ethical accountants are a key component to the economic development of all nations. In Nigeria, deficiencies have been identified within higher education institutions charged with developing future accountants. Specifically, Nigerian accounting lecturers have been identified as lacking motivation to effectively train students. Sr. Angela Chinaenye Ibe of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (SSH) hopes to improve these circumstances by providing quality education as a caring accounting professor and mentor.

Sr. Angela enrolled in the SLDI's Administration Track in 2014. Sr. Angela says that participation in the SLDI program broadened her thinking and expressional horizons. After completing that program, she continued her studies through HESA, an ASEC program which provides opportunities for women religious in African countries to access undergraduate and master's level education. She graduated with her Bachelor's degree in March of 2019 and her Masters degree in January of 2022, both in accounting.

*"This is a success story because it is an unimaginable transformation which I did not clamor for and it has come to me as an unmerited gift from God, achieved through the help of gifted human beings around me who played contributory roles in my life."*

After graduating, Sr. Angela accepted a position as an Assistant Lecturer in Accounting at Veritas University, where she teaches three courses to over 120 students, serves as a course advisor, and a mentor. She is also working towards the achievement of her doctorate in accounting. Sr. Angela plans to continue preparing young adults to be knowledgeable and effective accountants, who will make a difference throughout Nigeria.



*Sr. Angela says that participation in the SLDI program broadened her thinking and expressional horizons*

# ASEC Scholarship Program 2022 Year in Review

Since 2012, ASEC's Scholarship Program has been **bridging the gap to higher education** for sisters by providing scholarships to complete secondary school or higher education credentials relevant to sisters' ministries.

From 2012-2022, **more than 590 sisters received scholarships through the program**, which now serves sisters in six different African countries. Sisters in the Scholarship Program have studied at over 140 educational institutions.

A **97% retention rate** reaffirms that sisters who begin the program also tend to stay in the program.



In 2021-2022, more than **110 new and 75 continuing students** joined the Scholarship Program.



More than **380 ASEC-sponsored sisters and women** have graduated from the Scholarship Program.



**Most students study at the secondary/form-level:** 206 secondary/form credentials, 117 diplomas, 50 certificates, 8 bachelors degrees, and 1 doctoral degree.

## Form-Level Scholarships

ASEC's Scholarship Program was initiated in 2012 to meet the unique educational needs expressed by sisters in Tanzania, where **65% of women religious lack secondary education**. ASEC partners with the Bigwa Sisters Secondary School in Morogoro, Tanzania to serve sisters in need of Form V and VI education.

In 2022, **26 ASEC-sponsored students graduated from the Bigwa Sisters Secondary School**. We're so grateful to all who generously donated to ASEC in support of their education.

## Post-Secondary Level Scholarships

In addition to form-level, scholarship recipients also attend programs in various disciplines such as education, medical science, social work, law, accounting, and more. These scholarships often serve as a **stepping stone for sisters interested in pursuing higher levels of education**. Many of our scholarship recipients continue their education through the HESA program, which is grant-funded by the Hilton Foundation. Other sisters apply for the Scholarship Program to pursue degree programs related to their ministry work that may not be offered by our partner institutions through the HESA program.

ASEC form-level scholarship recipients celebrate at the Bigwa Sisters Secondary School graduation in Tanzania



ASEC staff celebrates with the first doctoral level scholarship graduate in Kenya



The ASEC Scholarship Program has served more than **100 congregations** across the **6 countries** in which it operates.

## Doctoral Level Scholarships

In 2020, ASEC launched doctoral level scholarships under its Scholarship Program to support women religious in Africa pursuing doctoral degrees at ASEC partner institutions. The doctoral scholarship supports sisters through their education and research requirements for a doctoral degree, as well as engages them in professional and learning opportunities. To date, three women religious have participated in this level of the program.

Sr. Esther Wambui Gitee of the Assumption Sisters of Nairobi (ASN), is pursuing a PhD in Financial Management at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA). In addition to her current studies, Sr. Esther teaches business studies and Catholic religious education classes at Maryhill Girls High School in Thika, Kenya, she also serves as their business coordinator. Further, she is an adjunct finance lecturer at CUEA.

Sr. Christine John O. Amaa of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (SHS), is studying for a PhD in Social Transformation at Tangaza University College's Institute for Social Transformation. Her research focus is sustainable livelihoods and coping strategies among rural men.

Lastly, Sr. Janet Christine Kiden, MSBVM, was the first doctoral graduate, earning her PhD in Education from CUEA.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

ASEC's Scholarship Program is not grant funded and relies on donations from our supporters to operate. Would you consider supporting this valuable program? Donate today at: [asec-sldi.org/donate](https://asec-sldi.org/donate)

### Awarding Scholarships

Sisters apply to the program and depending on the support of people like you, ASEC awards scholarships to the best applicants.

Unfortunately, not all sisters that apply receive a scholarship. ASEC chooses the top applicants to receive scholarships based on merit and available funding. Scholarships are usually awarded for the full length of time it will take a sister to complete her degree, mostly commonly 2-3 years.

# ASEC Development 2021-2022 Year in Review

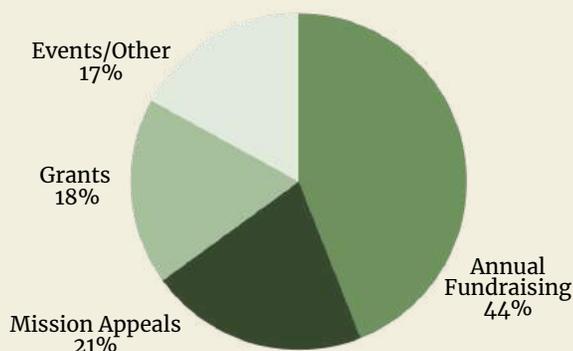
The 2021-2022 fiscal year was like no other. It offered us a glimpse of hope as we all emerged slowly from our quarantines and learned to make adjustments along the way as the effects of the pandemic continued and the virus mutated. Looking back, we see the resilience experienced by Catholic sisters in Africa and their goal to offer services amidst the challenges of the pandemic. The sisters worked tirelessly and creatively used the skills they learned through ASEC programs to serve the needs of their communities, especially the vulnerable and the marginalized in rural villages, where social services are limited. It is that resilience and determination that motivates us to provide the sisters in Africa with opportunities for training to gain skills they most need to provide quality services. We tell the sisters' success stories, made possible through the help of our generous supporters, through our website and social media platforms ([asec-sldi.org/](http://asec-sldi.org/)).

ASEC relies heavily on charitable donations, annual appeals, grant funding, mission appeals, and other sources of income to support the training and education of Catholic sisters in Africa. The Development Team at ASEC builds on the existing fundraising successes to support our mission while developing new ways to engage and maintain relationships with donors.

## Development Efforts Analysis

### Development Efforts 2021-2022

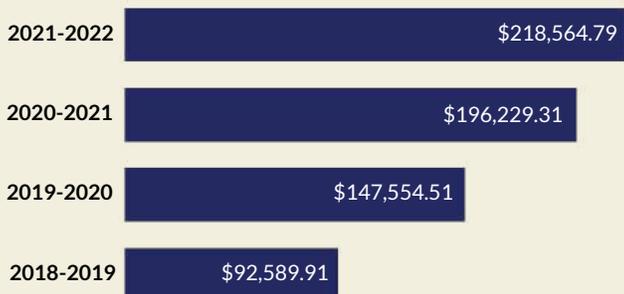
*ASEC Development Uses a Fundraising Mix Strategy*



*You, our supporters, are part of our story.*

*You are making a difference through the people that the sisters serve. Thank you for your generosity!*

### Annual Total Contributions



### Giving by Campaign



*Because of YOU, our annual contributions have continued to increase gradually and enabled us to provide more sisters in Africa with the training they need to offer quality services. Thank you!*

At ASEC we know firsthand that by providing access to education, sisters in Africa are able to impact and make a difference in the lives of millions of people. This was no different in 2021-2022. Empowered with skills, ASEC sisters had the courage and the confidence they needed to provide services most needed in their society. As we learned from the global pandemic, much had to change, and adjustments had to be made in diverse areas especially in service delivery. In sub-Saharan Africa, the majority of the people not only experienced food insecurity, but also, a high demand for clean water both for drinking and for washing hands. Water is often a scarcity in many parts of Africa and in most circumstances this has led to health problems. In essence, the need for more sisters trained in healthcare became manifest as many people in rural villages sought help for health issues, food, water, or other challenges that emerged during the pandemic.

Technology and challenges of connectivity also played a big role in service delivery. Once they were able to establish connectivity, the sisters in Africa too had to sharpen their technological skills. Those sisters that had learned technology through ASEC programs mentored others as they made adjustments and learned new ways of service delivery to enable them reach out to the most vulnerable.

Filled with gratitude, ASEC's Development Team hopes to express our deepest appreciation for the way in which you (yes, you!) and our donors responded to our call for financial support during those challenging times. The challenges were significant but the support helped us stay afloat. It is because of the support we received from you that we continue to build the capacities of sisters in Africa who in turn serve with confidence and provide quality services, especially in rural areas of their society where social services are limited.

By providing access to education through ASEC, sisters are able to make a difference in the lives of millions of people through providing resources in healthcare, fighting hunger, access to clean water, and much more. Once empowered, the sisters in Africa educate, offer social services, mentor others, create jobs, and strengthen and unite communities. Thank you all so much.

**Sr. Nancy Kamau LSOSF**  
**ASEC Development Director**

*ASEC gratefully participated in the 2022 Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in St. Louis, MO*



*Senior Program Manager, Rosemary Shaver and ASEC Executive Director, Sr. Draru Mary Cecilia, share information on ASEC's mission at LCWR (Aug. 2022)*



*ASEC Executive Director, Sr. Draru Mary Cecilia, greeted guests at a dinner ASEC hosted for partners and friends during the LCWR (Aug. 2022)*

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 Mary L. Gautier, PhD  
 (Board Secretary)  
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 Jacqueline C. Reich, PhD  
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 Sr. Barbara Spears, SNJM  
 Sr. Regina Zoot, MSN, BSN, RN, SHCJ  
 Sr. Bridgita Samba Mwawasi, SSJM  
 Sara P. Marks, MA



The ASEC Advisory Board hosted a hybrid-style meeting with some members attending in-person and some joining in online (April 2022)

## EMERITA DIRECTOR:

Sr. Kathryn Miller, SSJ, PhD

## ASEC REPRESENTATIVE:

Sr. Mary Cecilia Draru, LSMIG, PhD

## ASEC ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Edward Dadez, PhD  
 (Representative to the Board of Directors)  
 Sr. Ellen Marvel, CSR  
 (Representative to the Board of Directors)  
 Sr. Marge Kloos, SC  
 Sr. Joan Mary Hartigan, CSJ  
 Sr. Linda Haydock, SNJM  
 Sr. LaDonna Manternach, BVM  
 Sr. Gertrude Lanouette, DHS  
 Robert L. Manuel, PhD

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 Sr. Mary Persico, IHM, EdD  
 Sr. Jane Wakahiu, LSOSF, PhD  
 Angelique Mutombo, MA  
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 Stephanie Simon-Dowling, LCSW  
 James Sullivan, MArch, RA, AIA  
 April Fowlkes, MS  
 E. Jay Kolick, MS, MBA, FAC, CCJP  
 Edward Dadez, PhD



ASEC Board of Directors meet during April of 2022. Some members participated via Zoom.

# Thank You To Our Amazing Supporters

Our gratitude goes out to you, our generous partners, donors, and friends. What we do is not possible without you. Every single dollar you've given makes such a big difference. You are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Donors Between 9/1/2021 and 8/31/2022

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Julie Knudsen  
Kim Scalse  
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Maria Brusard  
Mary Adamson  
Mary Christine Burns  
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Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
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Sr. Nancy Kamau, LSOSF  
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Tata J. Mbugua  
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Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph  
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William Stout  
Winfred Mutinda & Family

## Special Gratitude

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Chestnut Hill College & the Sisters of St. Joseph, SSJ, Philadelphia, PA  
Marywood University & the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, IHM, Scranton, PA  
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# Alumnae Spotlight



**Sr. Virgilia Zamah Bih, TSSF**

**SLDI Track:** Phase III, Finance,  
Cameroon

**Graduated:** November 2015

After completing the SLDI program, Sr. Virgilia Zamah Bih of the Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis (TSSF) in Cameroon, used her knowledge to teach SLDI Basic Technology to ASEC sisters in both Nigeria and Cameroon. Sr. Virgilia was elected to a leadership role in her congregation, overseeing and mentoring her local community of 30 sisters. Unfortunately, her congregation lost three sisters to COVID-19. Although a tragedy, Sr. Virgilia was able to use her skills in grant-writing and resource mobilization to prevent more COVID-19 cases. During 2020 she was awarded a grant to aid her sisters living and working in the southwest region of Cameroon, which was used to purchase materials and equipment to prevent further infection. Read her full story at [asec-sldi.org](https://asec-sldi.org).



*Sr. Honorine Nain, SSA with pupils during cooking practicals at the St. Therese of the Jesus Nursery and Primary School in Cameroon*



*SLDI and HESA Alumna, Sr. Lilian Gatai Njuguna, IHM, with women receiving technical training through her ministry in Thika, Kenya (October 2022)*

The mission of ASEC is to facilitate access to education for women religious in Africa that leads to enhancement and expansion of the education, health, economic, social, environmental, and spiritual services they provide.

# News & Updates

## Thank You For Your Service

You have given so much of yourself to ASEC during your time of service. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you:

- Sr. Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, PhD (Board Vice Chair), Charter Member of the Board of Directors, President, Chestnut Hill College (Retired)
- Sr. Joyce Rita Karambu, NSA, Programs Coordinator, Kenya
- Sr. Clare Abisola Adelokun, DHS, Programs Coordinator, Nigeria
- Jaime Lyn Bloxham, MPA, Program Manager, SLDI & Service Learning, United States
- Amy Fedele, Media and Communications Manager, United States
- Francesca Saldan, MA, Data Manager, United States



*ASEC staff hold a toast via Zoom to honor the selfless service of Sr. Joyce Rita and Sr. Clare, who are leaving the organization to attend to other obligations*



## Thank You and Congratulations to Sr. Carol Jean Vale

**ASEC Co-Founder and former Vice Chair Sr. Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, PhD, retired in 2022 as President of Chestnut Hill College after 30 years of dedicated service in higher education**

## Welcome to the Team

**ASEC is thrilled to welcome new members to the team this year:**

- Sr. Esther Jeruto Koros, OSF, Programs Coordinator, Kenya
- Monica Simon, Web Content Manager, United States
- Nicole Vilogi-DiPietro, MBA, Program Manager, Programs, United States
- Melanie Rosato, Data Manager, Monitoring & Evaluation, United States
- Sr. Eveline Bi Ambe, SSA, Administrative Assistant, Cameroon
- Mary Roche, Administrative Specialist, United States



*Sr. Margaret Gannon, IHM, PhD (10/14/2022), ASEC Founding Member, Charter Member of the Board of Directors Emerita*

## In Loving Memory of Sr. Margaret Gannon

**We have said goodbye to a pillar of the organization this year. As a Founding Member, it has been a great loss, but we feel fortunate to have been blessed with her service. We pray that she may rest in eternal peace.**

**Sr. Margaret Gannon, IHM, PhD passed away this year into eternal peace after a life of service.**

# Gratitude to ASEC Staff in Africa and the United States



ASEC staff in Malawi, Sr. Hilaria Chombo, SBVM (Director), and Sr. Teresa Mulenga, TS (Programs Coordinator), celebrate with HESA students graduating from the Catholic University of Malawi (July 2022).



ASEC Director, Nigeria, Sr. Veronica Fatoyinbo, SNDdeN, (right) poses for a photo with SLDI Basic Technology Students (July 2022).



ASEC Programs Coordinator, Uganda, Sr. Monica Opige Ajok, LSMIG (right), distributes new laptops to HESA students during Orientation (July 2022).



ASEC Programs Coordinator, Tanzania, Sr. Maria Telesphora, COLU (center), poses with women supported by ASEC's Scholarship Program after graduation from Bigwa Sisters Secondary School (May 2022).



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National University of Lesotho

Catholic University Institute of Buea (CUIB)  
Catholic University of Cameroon Bamenda  
Conference of English-Speaking Religious  
(CESR)  
Pan-African Institute for Development-West  
Africa (PAID)

Catholic University of Ghana  
Conference of Major Superiors of the  
Religious in Ghana (CMSR-G)  
Holy Family Nursing and Midwifery Training  
College Berekum

Hobatta Global Nigeria Limited  
Jos Leadership & Educational Services  
Nigeria Conference of Women Religious  
(NCWR)  
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Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia, PA  
Marywood University, Scranton, PA  
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of  
Mary, Scranton, PA  
Neumann University, Aston, PA  
Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia, Aston,  
PA  
Rosemont College, Rosemont, PA  
The Society of the Holy Child Jesus,  
Rosemont, PA

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate  
(CARA), Georgetown University,  
Washington, DC

## THE RIPPLE EFFECT of educating an African sister



### Why Catholic Sisters?

Sisters are already serving the rural, poor communities of Africa where help is needed the most.

### Education enables a sister to

- Become a better leader
- Effectively raise funds & write grants
- Solve problems in her community
- Make better financial decisions
- Share their knowledge with others



Make an online donation through our secure system by visiting:

[asec-sldi.org/donate](https://asec-sldi.org/donate)

Or, mail checks made payable to:  
African Sisters Education Collaborative  
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### The impact of your donation:

\$3 provides **one day** of education  
for a Catholic sister

\$20 = **one week** of education

\$85 = **one month** of education

\$250 = **three months** of education

\$500 = **six months** of education

\$1,000 = **one year** of education

Donations support ASEC's scholarship program, which bridges the gap to higher education for African sisters in Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Ghana, and Lesotho by providing scholarships to complete secondary school or receive higher education credentials relevant to their ministries.

Will you become a *Ray of Hope* and help educate women who are serving the poor communities across Africa?

We are committed to alleviating poverty in Africa through the education of Catholic sisters... sisters who are already working where help is needed most. Will you join us? Donate today and make a big difference for years to come. Your impact is a great blessing!

