



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

Institute for Educational Development, East Africa



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-MARCH 2024

Foundations for Learning (F4L) Project in Action

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Technology (MoEVT), Zanzibar Visit to AKU Tanzania

The Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development, East Africa (AKU-IED,EA) hosted Mr Khamis Abdulla Said, MoEVT, Zanzibar, at AKU campus in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The courtesy visit envisages future partnership and collaboration with the Ministry of Education Zanzibar. The PS and his delegation also had the opportunity to visit Agency for the Development of Educational Management (ADEM) our partner institution in implementing the Diploma in Education and Management (DEMA) programme under the F4L project.



Presentation of IED, EA's impact and reach during the Permanent Secretary from MoEVT, Zanzibar visit at AKU Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Reflection Meetings for Leaders and Tutors in East Africa (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania)

Reflection meetings and follow-up visits were conducted at Shanzu Teachers College (Kenya), Lodonga Training Institute (Uganda), and Nachingwea Training College (Tanzania) to not only address the gaps in implementing the F4L project but also interact with the leaders to reflect on the ongoing project interventions.

Let's take a closer look at the outcomes of these reflection meetings and follow-ups in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

Shanzu Teachers College- Mombasa, Kenya

The three days of deliberation with leaders, tutors, and education stakeholders under the F4L project at Shanzu Teachers Training College focused on mentorship, pedagogical practices in early childhood education, and personal professional development. Challenges and opportunities were discussed and recommendations were provided. Key takeaways included:

- Structured peer mentorship programmes continue to nurture a culture of support and growth.
- Workshops on pedagogical practices foster a learner-centered approach and technology integration.
- Personal professional development surfaced as a cornerstone for growth.
- Targeted capacity building and resource allocation in inquiry-based learning and ICT integration are significant in bridging the gap in teaching and learning.



A tutor from Nachingwea Teachers College conducting a mentorship session with his students

St. John Bosco Lodonga and Arua Teachers Training Institutes, Uganda

This exercise examined the impact of the F4L intervention on the relationship between learning goals and performance of the college leaders and tutors. It involved eight tutors from Arua and sixteen from Lodonga where the focus was on learning achievements, gender, diversity and inclusion, use of Makerspace, reflective practice, and developing a teaching portfolio.

This exercise helped participants translate theoretical understanding into actual practice, identify gaps, and set up a way forward. Furthermore, it revealed the need for more frequent reflection sessions, mentoring, and support and an intensified collaboration among tutors and college leaders for improved performance achievement.

Nachingwea Teachers College, Tanzania

F4L recently conducted practicum, reflection, and mentoring activities in Nachingwea, Ruangwa, Lindi District Council, and Lindi Municipal Council. The practicum visit entailed an observation of 10 tutors and 28 student teachers in primary schools.

During these visits, gender balance was emphasized in its holistic inclusion in teaching and learning. Specifically, at Nachingwea Training College, mentorship sessions continue to offer opportunities for tutors to identify areas of strength and areas of improvement.



A tutor from Nachingwea Training College in Tanzania conducting a mentorship session with his students

F4L Longitudinal Study Cycle 2

F4L conducted a study in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania to identify effective teaching and leadership practices. The study employed mixed research methods, including survey questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. The data was collected from college administrators, student teachers, and college students in Kenya, headteachers, Course Participants (CPS) of the DELM programme, and student teachers in Uganda.

The study conducted has provided insights into effective teaching and leadership practices in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania, and is expected to have a positive impact on the education sector in the region.



Interview sessions during data collection at Shanzu TTC Kenya

F4L Data Audit in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania

A data audit of partner colleges in Kenya Uganda and Tanzania was conducted in March. The audit aimed at cleaning and updating beneficiary database. This exercise identified a gap where the colleges lacked a data quality framework, tracking system, and confidentiality tools. Nonetheless, the audit was successful and the team has identified key areas for improvement that can help the partner colleges to better manage their data and make more informed decisions in the future.

F4L Data Audit in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania

In line with the ongoing commitment to collaborative research within the F4L project, Dr. Wango, along with Prof. Epifany Picho, DVC- Finance and Administration MUNI University, met with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) in Uganda. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the implementation of the F4L research conducted through The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), entitled **“Fostering Learners’ Academic Achievement through Continuous Teacher-Professional Learning and Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Education In Pre-Primary And Primary Schools in West Nile, Uganda: School Leadership and Management as the Key Driver.”** This study is designed to complement the existing intervention of the F4L project in West Nile, Uganda. MOES, Uganda commended the study and stressed the importance of regular feedback, as well as adherence to the National Research Procedure.

Diploma in Educational Leadership Management (DELM), Kenya Updates

As the DELM programme in Kenya comes to an end in April, Dr Wango, chaired a meeting with Dr Maurice Odondo, Chief Executive Officer, and his team from the partner institution Kenya Education Management Institute (KEMI). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss plans for conferring diplomas in August 2024 upon 26 CPs from Mombasa and Kilifi counties. Emphasis was placed on key areas of sustainability and collaboration, paving the way for future paper publications and other activities.

Meeting with the Permanent Secretary, Uganda

Recently, a group of education professionals from MOES Uganda, IED, EA, and AKDN teams gathered for a productive meeting to discuss the future of education in Uganda. They delved into various aspects of educational development and exchanged insightful ideas on how to improve teacher education in Uganda. IED, EA’s investments in education in committing to becoming a hub for educational excellence was a highlight of the meeting. Also, the newly established Center for Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning (CELL) sparked interest among the attendees for future collaboration.

The MOES team expressed eagerness to explore this initiative further during the upcoming F4L education conference in April 2024.



Group photo with Permanent Secretary Ms. Ketty Lamaro and Prof Jane Rarieya and other members during a meeting at the Ministry of Education Office in Kampala, Uganda

Other Updates

Open Day at AKU

IED, EA conducted an Open Day event at Dar es Salaam campus, Tanzania in February, 2024. Visitors had the chance to meet with experienced faculty, acquire more information on courses and programmes, and get a feel of how transformational teaching takes place at the institute. [Watch the video](#) to get a glimpse of the day.

Additionally, in March, IED, EA hosted a similar event focusing on secondary and high school students from Segia Girls Secondary School from Morogoro and Tambaza, Mnazi Mmoja, and Kisutu secondary schools from Dar es Salaam.



Gilbert Biryahwaho, a student at IED, EA interacting with students during the Open Day event at AKU, Tanzania

Centre for Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning (CELL) Workshop

IED, EA has embarked on a journey to empower mathematics teachers and revolutionise the way the subject is taught. This is due to the struggle with mathematics performance being witnessed in the country, a longstanding issue, with students grappling to grasp the subject and perform well in national examinations. [Read more](#)

AKU Global Convocation

The Aga Khan University celebrated convocation for the class of 2023 worldwide on February 17, 2024. [Watch the highlights of the day](#)

AKU Tanzania Celebrates Alumni Reunion

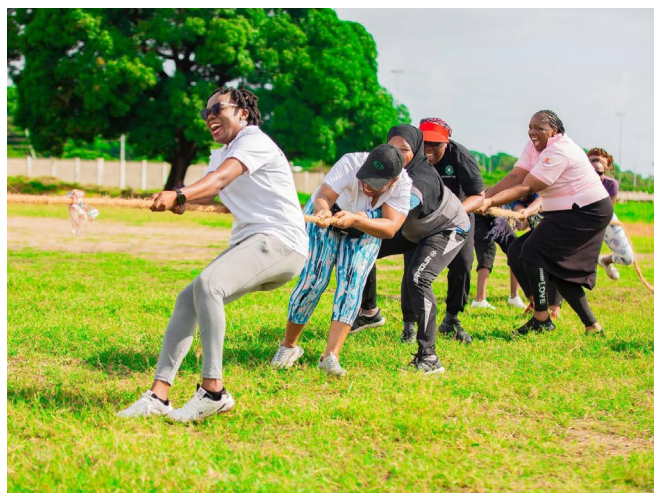
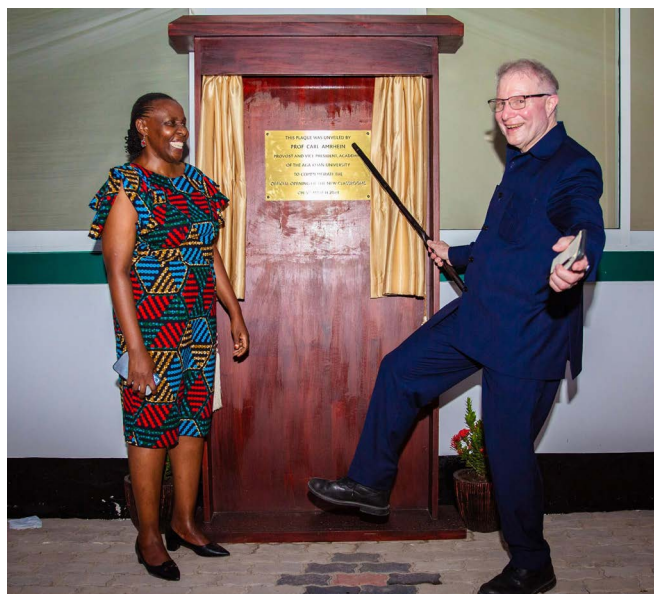
AKU Tanzania alumni gathered for their first-ever reunion at their alma mater, marking a milestone event filled with nostalgia, laughter, and inspiring stories. The reunion showcased the profound impact AKU alumni are making in various fields, serving as true ambassadors of the university.

As a proud alumna herself, Prof Jane Rariya urged fellow alumni to embody AKU's values of giving back, emphasizing the importance of contributing meaningfully to society. The reunion provided a platform for alumni like Ayubu Msuya from IED, EA now a teacher at Jangwani Secondary School and Country Coordinator of the Tanzanian English Language Teachers Association to share their personal and professional journeys. Msuya's story exemplified the transformative power of AKU's teachings, showcasing how confidence and collaboration have propelled him to success.



Group photo of AKU Tanzania alumni with Prof. Jane Rariya, Dean IED, EA, Prof. Hussein Kidanto, Associate Dean-Medical College Tanzania, and Prof Eunice Pallangyo, AKU's Associate Vice Provost at Salama house

Provost Farewell at AKU Tanzania



A view of sections of the Provost Farewell Day

AKU Tanzania bid farewell to Provost Carl Amrhein in grand style! Faculty, staff, students, and partners from the University of Dar es Salaam and Magnet Academy kicked off the pre-farewell event with spirited sports competitions and concluded with an awards ceremony. During the sports competitions, Provost Carl even scored a goal, emphasizing the importance of well-being.

Women's Day at AKU



In celebrating AKU women during International Women's Day, a student-led event was organized coupled with a panel discussion, a skit, a poem, and a musical performance. With the theme **"Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress"**. Great discussions took place towards creating a more equitable and inclusive society.

The event was part of AKU's ongoing efforts to celebrate and recognize the contributions of women across our campuses. It involved students, staff, and faculty members. [Watch the video](#) to get a glimpse of Women's Day at AKU.

International Day of Mathematics

Over 80 students and teachers from primary and secondary schools in Tanzania celebrated the International Day of Mathematics themed: **“Playing with Math”** at AKU’s Dar es Salaam campus. The workshop was facilitated by IED, EA faculty and Master of Education students, aimed to make math fun, and urged students to embrace the subject for better learning outcomes. [Read more](#)

AKU Environment Club’s Beach Cleaning Activity Leaves a Positive Impact in the Community

The AKU students Environment Club recently did a beach cleaning activity in conjunction with Global Recycling Day. The purpose of this activity was to safeguard Climate Change and environmental sustainability of marine life. They collected non-degradable materials along the coastline of the Indian Ocean, particularly around Coco Beach in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



Arriving at Coco Beach, and seeing a huge amount of waste was nostalgic. Taking part in this beach cleaning exercise made me feel that I am making a positive change by creating a safe and clean beach environment for the community.

Gloria Mwakenja
AKU, Tanzania Student



This activity made me feel connected to earth and inspired me to take better care of our environment every day. This experience showed me the importance of small actions in making a big difference in the world. There was no better way to spend my day than this!

Stella Kandole
AKU, Tanzania Student

Our Alumni Voices



Zamda Hussein's inspirational journey as an educator

For years, Zamda Hussein assumed AKU's academic programmes were entirely focused on health sciences. One day, a Ward Education Officer walked into her office with an admissions flier on the Master of Education programme. Following a thorough review of the curriculum and her desire to pursue a Master's degree, Zamda applied to AKU. [Read more](#)



Vitalis Obonyo: The PhD holder who went back to school

On February 17, 2024, Vitalis Obonyo received the Award for Excellence in Student Leadership at the global convocation ceremony. He was recognized for his leadership efforts during his time as a Master of Education student at AKU's Institute for Educational Development, East Africa (IED EA) in Dar es Salaam. [Read more](#)

Stay in touch with us by following us on social media to get updates on the work that we do.



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