



## THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

---

Institute for Educational Development, East Africa



# NEWSLETTER

---

*APRIL - JUNE 2024*

# Foundations for Learning (F4L) Project in Action

## IED, EA hosts the 2nd F4L Conference

The Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development, East Africa (AKU-IED EA) concluded its second F4L conference in Kampala, Uganda on April 17-19, 2024. The conference was themed **“Empowering Educators: Building Transformative Ecosystems in East Africa and Beyond”** and aimed to promote holistic strengthening of education systems in the region through partnerships and collaborative efforts. The outcomes from the conference, as outlined in the communique presented by project beneficiaries, are expected to drive action from ministries of education.

This collective commitment aims to address critical education issues and ensure the sustainability of interventions with strong government support. [Read more](#)



**200+**

In person attendees



**23**

Scholarship recipients



**100+**

Presentations



**100+**

Online participants



A group photo with the Honorable John .C Musingo Minister of State for Higher Education, Uganda taken during the second F4L Conference in Kampala, Uganda

# Face to face meetings for the Diploma in Educational Leadership and Management (DELM) students

## Nachingwea, Tanzania

Agency for the Development of Educational Management (ADEM) and IED, EA through its Diploma in Educational Management and Administration (DEMA) programme conducted a follow-up visit to the Course Participants (CPs) in their schools in districts of Nachingwea, Ruangwa, Mtama, and Lindi municipal to assess the overall development and sustainability plans of CPs post-training. Their participation in the DEMA programme has proven invaluable in enhancing their capabilities. The CPs have confidence with school financial management, resource mobilization and improved learning in ensuring the teachers create teaching resources for teaching. The commitment displayed by all 47 DEMA course participants (27 females and 22 males) underscores their dedication to continuous professional development and their roles as educational leaders.

## Mombasa, Kenya

The final face-to-face residential training session of the Diploma in Educational Leadership and Management (DELM) programme was held at the Kenya School of Government (KSG) in Mombasa. The programme had 26 CPs taking the 2 years DELM programme conducted with IED, EA, and Kenya Education Management Institute (KEMI). This session provided school leaders with an opportunity to reflect on their progress, identify areas for improvement, and strategize on the application of new knowledge in their respective schools, building upon the learning experiences from previous months. The CPs expressed their satisfaction with the relevance of the training to their daily leadership duties. They were engaged in practical activities that exposed them to best practices in educational leadership, preparing them to become change agents within their academic institution.

## Arua, Uganda

In a recent update, the DELM programme at Muni University brought together 35 CPs (18 head teachers and 17 deputy head teachers). The face-to-face session offered an in-depth exploration of pedagogical leadership, leading and managing change, communication skills, and empirical study or inquiry project.

Remarkably, participants have reported significant improvements in their leadership skills, increased confidence in managing change, and enhanced communication proficiency. CPs have proven to develop school strategic plans to support institutional development.

# Closing Ceremonies of the DELM Programmes

## Nachingwea, Tanzania

IED, EA celebrated the achievements of 46 DEMA students in Nachingwea, Tanzania. The graduates demonstrated improvements in teaching practices, especially in english, mathematics, gender inclusivity, diversity, and ICT integration. They also showcased how they addressed challenges at their schools through proposal writing, creating engaging learning spaces, promoting gender inclusion, and effectively integrating ICT. The completion of the DEMA programme marks a new chapter for these teachers in Tanzania, equipping them to drive positive change in the education system.



A group photo taken during closing ceremony for the DEMA students in Nachingwea, Tanzania

## Mombasa, Kenya

IED, EA and KEMI celebrated the achievements of 26 graduands in Mombasa, Kenya. They demonstrated significant improvements in teaching and learning practices through the DELM programme, emphasizing the importance of promoting gender equity, diversity, inclusion, and pedagogical leadership. This marks a new chapter for teacher educators in East Africa, equipping them to inspire positive change

and champion the education agenda. [Read more](#)

Subsequent to the closing event IED, EA celebrated the graduation of its eight cohort, comprising over 1,200 students, in partnership with the Kenya Education Management Institute (KEMI). Notably, 26 of these graduates were fully sponsored by AKU-IED EA under the F4L Project. [Read more](#)



DELM students during the graduation ceremony at KEMI Nairobi, Kenya

## Makerspace Training to DEMA students in Nachingwea, Tanzania

Through the F4L project, a makerspace training was organized for 45 primary school head teachers who are the participants of the DEMA programme offered by IED,EA in collaboration with ADEM. The training aimed to assist head teachers in better organizing their work to facilitate significant academic progress for students within a specific timeframe. They were trained on utilizing interactive teaching materials to enhance students' learning across Nachingwea, Ruangwa, and Lindi municipal in southern Tanzania.

The training will empower the head teachers and tutors to create more engaging and effective learning environments, ultimately leading to improved academic performance and educational outcomes for the students in these districts.



Teaching resources presentation during makerspace training at Nachingwea Training College, Tanzania

## Longitudinal Study in Kenya

The F4L project undertook phase 2 data collection activity with the primary goal of gathering data on the impact of project interventions on the CPs at Shanzu Teachers Training College (TTC) in Mombasa. The study primarily targeted the pre-service student teachers from the TTC who are conducting teaching practicums in project schools where head teachers were undergoing the DELM programme offered by the IED,EA in partnership with KEMI. The activity provided valuable insights into the experiences and outcomes of the interventions, offering a deeper understanding of the project's influence on the educational landscape. The findings from the activity will be crucial in assessing the effectiveness of the project and guiding future initiatives.

## A Workshop to Develop Master Facilitators and Building Communities of Educational Practitioners

The one-day workshop gathered 21 DELM CPs from Kenya for an intensive session focused on developing skilled facilitators and forming communities of educational practitioners. The goal was to equip these leaders with the ability to foster the development of communities among themselves and other like-minded educational practitioners. The workshop enhanced the sharing of best practices, and innovative strategies, and promoted collaborative learning and peer-to-peer support beyond the DELM course.

## Follow up and Mentoring Support in Uganda



Mentorship sessions conducted by a Faculty Miss Mary Oluga and a PDT Amute Robinson after observation in Uganda

IED, EA team mentored tutors and administrators at Arua and St. John Bosco Teacher Colleges, identifying key milestones to be replicated in primary schools. Achievements included enhanced classroom practices, new mentoring structures, increased ICT use, and gender-responsive activities.

The exercise highlighted the need for ongoing professional development and effective leadership.

# Other Updates

## AKU Celebrates World Environment Day



A view of sections showcasing the activities that took place on world environment day

This year's World Environment Day at AKU Tanzania, with the theme **"Our Land, Our Future,"** featured a series of impactful events to highlight the importance of environmental conservation. The day commenced with a sensitization session at Jangwani Primary School, followed by a drawing competition. The main attraction was the tree planting activities at the school and the Aga Khan Hospital, during which over 90 indigenous trees and plants including aloe vera, orange, lemon, and lemongrass, were planted. Additionally, a virtual webinar focusing on partnerships and

innovations for land and climate resilience generated engaging discussions. The day concluded with a screening of the film **"When the Floods Come: Voices from the Roof of the World,"** which led to lively discussions and actionable steps to combat climate change within the AKU Tanzania community. [Read more](#)

## IED,EA at the National Week of Education,Skills and Innovations Exhibitions Competitions in Tanga, Tanzania



A view of sections at the national week of education,skills and Innovations exhibitions in Tanga,Tanzania

IED, EA participated in the National Week of Education, Skills, and Innovations exhibitions and competitions among 140 education institutions, held at Popatlal Secondary School in Tanga in May 2024. The exhibition provided a platform for higher education institutions and other stakeholders to showcase their products and services, network, and learn from one another while also giving parents, guardians, and students

the opportunity to explore academic and training opportunities available both domestically and internationally. The booth had over 200 visitors who made inquiries about the programmes and offerings at AKU.

## Centre for Continuing Education and and Lifelong Learning (CELL) Workshops

In its continuous quest of professionalizing the teaching profession CELL recently hosted two workshops;

- A workshop for 10 teachers and managers of Shree Hindi Mandal Secondary School in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The workshop focused on exploring innovative leadership and management practices to enhance student learning outcomes.
- A follow-up workshop on Nurturing Competency-Based Assessment (CBA) tailored for teachers from Prime Schools in Arusha. The workshop aimed to enhance educational practices and equip educators with the latest strategies and tools for effective Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) implementation.



A view of sections at the national week of education, skills and innovations exhibitions in Tanga, Tanzania

## Op-Ed: Critical Thinking Skills for Math Learning

Mathematics, often considered a straightforward subject, is frequently perceived as the most challenging and tedious by many learners. Despite its simplicity, it remains a daunting topic for most students. [Read more](#)



# Our Alumni Voices



In 2019, Harold was unsuccessful in his application to AKU's Master of Education program, but he didn't give up. His perseverance paid off when he was accepted in 2020. As a recent graduate with a Master of Education in Leadership and Management, Harold plans to use his expertise to conduct educational research that will shape policy and practice in Tanzania and beyond. [Read more](#)



Zipporah Mwanjelle found a Facebook post about the Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development, East Africa (IED, EA) in 2021. She applied and was accepted with a full scholarship from the Foundation for Learning (F4L) project. She then started a mentorship programme for girls in Samburu sub-county, Kwale County, and plans to expand it to more schools in coastal regions. [Read more](#)

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



Our mailing address is: [iedea@aku.edu](mailto:iedea@aku.edu)