

## 2019 Overview (All Countries)



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



Alumnae secure the most funding (51% of total amount) for education and health needs.



**36,000**

Total sisters in the 10 countries we serve as of 2017, a **13.76%** increase from 2012 to 2017.



**5,700**

Sisters and stakeholders served by ASEC since our programs began.



**\$16.5 M**

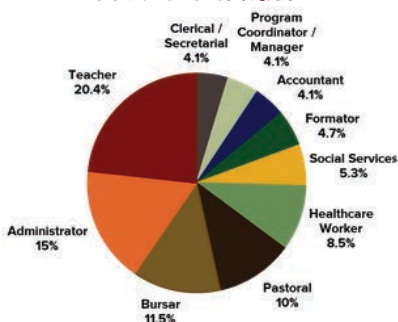
Funds raised by ASEC alumnae for community projects.



**2.1 M**

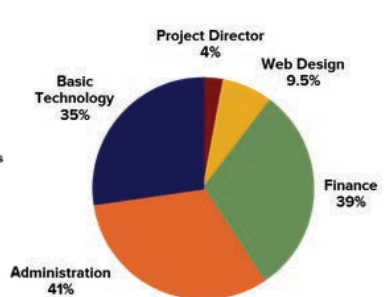
Individuals served and **3,500** jobs created by ASEC alumnae.

### SLDI MINISTRIES



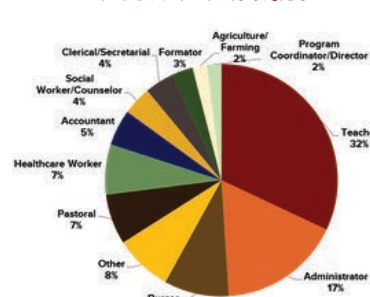
More than **20%** of 2019 SLDI participants report **teaching** as their ministry (N=661)

### SLDI TRACKS



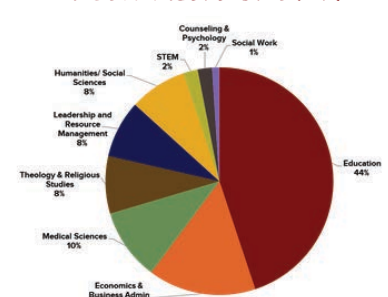
**41%** of SLDI participants were trained in **administration** and **39%** in **finance** from 2007-18 (N=2,524)

### HESA MINISTRIES



**32%** of HESA participants report **teaching** as their ministry (N=748)

### HESA FIELDS OF STUDY



**44%** of HESA participants are studying in the field of **education** (N=1,239)



**73%**

SLDI and/or HESA Alums Received Leadership Position in their Ministries (N=603)



**92%**

SLDI and/or HESA Alums Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in their Ministries (N=582)



**88%**

SLDI and/or HESA Alums Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in their Congregations (N=604)

## 2019 Overview (All Countries)



### HESA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Graduates of the HESA program have earned 73 awards:

- 26 First Class Honors
- 32 Second Class Honors
- 15 Other Awards



### VISITING SCHOLAR

A total of six visiting scholars have been accepted for a six month research fellowship to learn applied research skills at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), Georgetown University. The sixth scholar has been selected from Lesotho and will begin her fellowship in February 2020.

### ASEC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



A total of 369 Sisters have received an ASEC Two-Year Scholarship, with 117 awarded in 2019. The Scholarship Program serves Sisters in Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia.

### INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING PILOT

As SLDI began its 5th phase in 2019, a new pilot program was initiated to serve congregations and National Conferences or Associations of women religious. The program aims to improve organizational functioning in key areas such as financial management, governance, human resources, and strategic planning, among others. Workshops to sensitize congregational leaders about the new program and help them begin their capacity building processes are underway.

### SERVICE LEARNING



In late May and early June 2019, a team of US students, Sisters and university faculty traveled to Ghana via ASEC's Service Learning Program to serve in Mary Queen of Peace Catholic School (MQPCS), Cornelia Connelly School of the Holy Child Jesus and the Padre Pio Rehabilitation Center.

## PROVIDING HOLISTIC EDUCATION IN UGANDA

**Names:** Sr. Monica Auma, SCSC; Sr. Imelda Namyanzi, SCSC  
**Program:** HESA Marywood University & CUEA  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Education (B.Ed)  
**Project Areas:** • Education and Care for Vulnerable Children

According to the World Bank Group, Uganda ranks among the lowest countries in the world in regards to the most current Human Capital Index calculations. Many attribute this to Uganda's low education outcomes and minimal government spending in the education sector. It's also common for communities in Uganda to view education as the sole responsibility of schools, limiting parental and community support. Schools are tasked with preparing their students academically as well as ensuring positive holistic development of each child. Sisters Monica Auma and Imelda Namyanzi, SCSC, administrators of Kikyusa Primary and Secondary Schools in Uganda, aim to do just that.

Both Sr. Monica and Sr. Imelda participated in the HESA program, obtaining education degrees. Upon graduating, both sisters were appointed head teachers of the Kikyusa Primary and Secondary Schools. With Sr. Monica and Sr. Imelda as administrators, the schools have thrived, attracting students from multiple countries because of the schools' impressive curriculum and opportunities.

As head teacher, Sr. Monica assisted in raising funds through the community to construct a school kitchen. She also implemented a food cultivation project in which community members engage with students to run a farm on the school grounds. Sr. Imelda instituted an extracurricular program in which students are able to participate in dance, sports and singing activities. Both sisters recognize the need to educate students holistically and attribute their success to the knowledge they gained in the HESA program.

Sr. Monica said, "I also move out to families whenever I have time and involve in their family affairs, especially in regard to educating their children. I have settled some of these families back to normal. I attribute such confidence, skills and contribution to ASEC programs that empower us each year. The HESA programs have exposed us to knowledge."

Read more at [asec-sldi.org/kikyusa](http://asec-sldi.org/kikyusa)



# Cameroon



**3,213**

Total sisters in Cameroon as of 2017, a **24.5%** increase from 2012 to 2017.



**256**

Served by ASEC in Cameroon, **237** by the SLDI program and **19** by the HESA program.



**\$818 K**

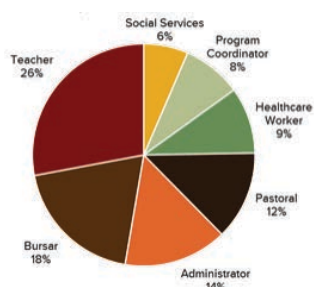
Funds raised by ASEC alumnae in Cameroon for community projects.



**40 K**

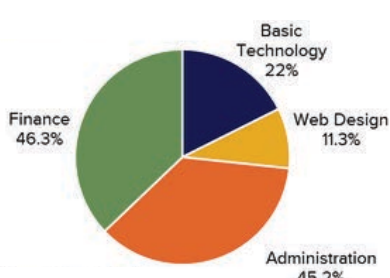
Individuals served and **172** jobs created by ASEC alumnae in Cameroon.

## SLDI MINISTRIES



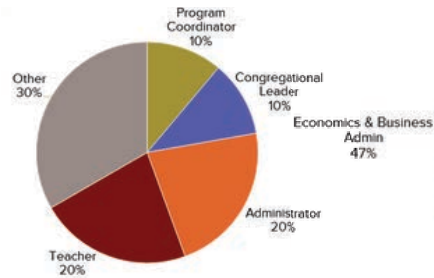
**26%** of 2019 SLDI participants in Cameroon report **teaching** as their ministry (N=55)

## SLDI TRACKS



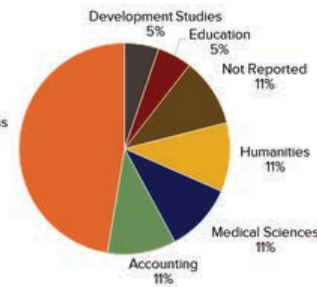
**46%** of SLDI participants were trained in **finance** and **45%** in **administration**, 2007-18 (N=177)

## HESA MINISTRIES



**20%** of HESA participants in Cameroon report **teaching** as their ministry (N=9)

## HESA FIELDS OF STUDY



**47%** of HESA participants in Cameroon are studying **economics & business administration** (N=19)



**54%**

Received Leadership Positions in their Ministries (N=39)



**92%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in their Ministries (N=37)



**70%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in their Congregations (N=40)

## Cameroon



### IMPROVING EDUCATION AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN CAMEROON

**Name:** Sr. Caroline Nanyi Acha, SST  
**Program:** SLDI Administration Track, 2015  
**Amount:** \$131,000  
**Project Areas:**

- Women's Empowerment
- Education and Care for Vulnerable Children

Sr. Caroline Acha, SST, works in a remote, rural area of northwest Cameroon, where her community faces many challenges, such as lack of schools, electricity and access to potable water. Girls face barriers to equality like high rates of teenage pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and early marriages.

Sr. Caroline prioritized **quality and affordable education** for the children of Cameroon. Using the resource mobilization skills she learned in SLDI, she received funding to build classrooms and a computer lab at the St. Therese school in Sabongari. She also raised funds to provide safe drinking water and sanitation for vulnerable students in the northeastern areas of Kumbo and Sanonga.

Sr. Caroline incorporates a **Women's Empowerment Center** as part of her ministry. The goal of the center is to increase the self-reliance of local women through training and education that helps them create and obtain jobs. The center also helps the women create an income through various group projects. This enables the women to afford their children's school fees and medical care. Sr. Caroline describes how she is putting her SLDI training to use:

*"ASEC has equipped me with a lot of new skills which I use to carry out my apostolate with a lot of inspiration and motivation...the difference and excellence in my ministry cannot be dissociated from the soft skills and attitudes, gained during the [SLDI] sessions...Our hope is to maintain consistency and leave a legacy- based on the positive impact we create on the lives of the people we minister to."*

Read more at [asec-sldi.org/caro](http://asec-sldi.org/caro)

### HESA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Sisters in Cameroon are earning degrees at the following levels of study:

- Bachelors Degree: 12
- Masters Degree: 7



### VISITING SCHOLAR



Sr. Margaret Dione Ajebe-Sone, SST, Cameroon is the fifth sister scholar accepted for a six month research fellowship to learn applied research skills at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), Georgetown University. Sr. Margaret visited ASEC headquarters in Scranton, PA, from September 23-29, 2019.

### ALUMNAE IMPACT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING



According to the 2018 Global Slavery Index, sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 19% of the world's enslaved population. Sisters in Cameroon are working to address this social injustice.

Five SLDI alumnae, Sr. Felicitas Ngu, Agnes Menjuh, Pamela Achingale, Mary Therese and Julienne Tonfack, Sisters of St. Ann, recently welcomed a young girl into their religious community upon her escape from trafficking. The sisters provided the girl with shelter until she reunited with her family and are currently supporting her studies.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



**Education** (60.4%) and **healthcare** (37.2%) are the top SDGs that ASEC alumnae in Cameroon contribute to in their ministries (N=43).



# Ghana



**1,091**

Total sisters in Ghana as of 2017, a **6.2%** increase from 2012 to 2017.



**483**

Served by ASEC in Ghana, **369** by SLDI, **93** by HESA and **21** by Service Learning.



**\$1.97 M**

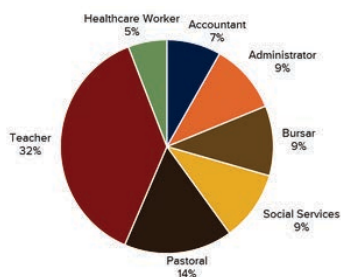
Funds raised by ASEC alumnae in Ghana for community projects.



**490 K**

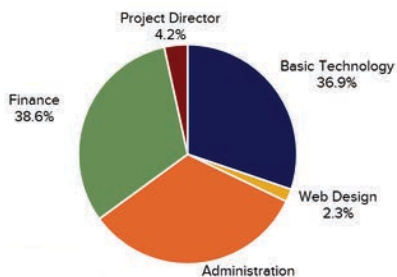
Individuals served and **165** jobs created by ASEC alumnae in Ghana.

## SLDI MINISTRIES



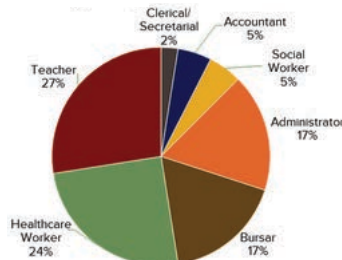
**32%** of 2019 SLDI participants in Ghana report **teaching** as their ministry (N=57)

## SLDI TRACKS



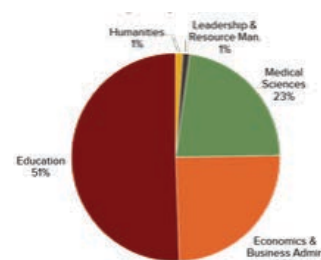
**40%** of SLDI participants were trained in **administration** and **39%** in **finance**, as of 2018 (N=306)

## HESA MINISTRIES



**27%** of HESA participants in Ghana report **teaching** as their ministry (N=41)

## HESA FIELDS OF STUDY



Over **50%** of HESA participants in Ghana are studying in the field of **education** (N=93)



**75%**

Received Leadership Position in her Ministry (N=73)



**93%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Ministry (N=72)



**88%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Congregation (N=77)

## Ghana



### PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY, SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND GOOD HEALTH IN GHANA

- Name:** Sr. Stephany Ayomah, SMI  
**Program:** SLDI Project Directors Track, 2009  
**Amount:** \$108,000+ USD  
**Total Served:**
  - 100 Women's Group Members
  - 455-700 (Rainy) 105-180 (Dry) in Health Clinic**Project Areas:**
  - Economic Empowerment for Women
  - Reducing Malnutrition
  - Livelihoods for Youth

In rural Ordorme, Northern Ghana, living in extreme poverty is the norm. Malnutrition, low literacy rates and a lack of jobs plague this forgotten community, void of any assistance from the government or NGOs. But they do have Sr. Stephany Ayomah, Sisters of Mary Immaculate. She and one other sister also live there, dedicated to improving conditions and serving the poor.

Sr. Stephany is not your ordinary accountant. An alumna of ASEC's SLDI program, she also learned how to implement and oversee multiple human development projects. She **leads a women's group** where she teaches income-generating skills such as farming and soap-making. She **renovated her congregation's bakery**, creating jobs and providing the congregation with income. She also raised funds to **drill a borehole and build a lab at the health clinic** where she works. Now, Sr. Stephany has plans for a **nutritional unit at the clinic**, where severely malnourished mothers and children could be admitted until they are healthy.

Sr. Stephany says that with skills learned in SLDI, she can now help evaluate projects and create policies. She continued to learn new skills through her participation in the ASEC Alumnae Workshops. She appreciates the sharing among her fellow alumnae, including how to manage challenging circumstances.

Sr. Stephany says that her ASEC education has changed her life in so many ways. And in turn, she wants to change the lives of others.

Read more at [asec-sldi.org/stephany](http://asec-sldi.org/stephany)

### HESA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

11 HESA participants studying in Ghana have received awards:

- Overall Best Student: 1
- First Class Honors: 7
- Second Class Honors: 3

**Sr. Philomena Aboagye-Danso, FST**, received "Best Graduating Student" from the Catholic University College of Ghana. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in Education.



### SERVICE LEARNING



### 21 Served by the Service Learning Program

In late May and early June 2019, a team of US students, sisters and university faculty traveled to Ghana via ASEC's Service Learning Program to serve in Mary Queen of Peace Catholic School (MQPCS), Cornelia Connelly School of the Holy Child Jesus and the Padre Pio Rehabilitation Center.

“ The cultural exchange was amazing. I knew some information about Ghana, but being among its actual citizens provided me the opportunity to learn so much more.

-Service Learning Student

### INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING (ICB)

The ICB pilot program was held in Ghana and Zambia in 2019. The 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.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



**Education** (58%) and **healthcare** (34.6%) are the top SDGs that ASEC alumnae in Ghana contribute to in their ministries (N=81).



**6,878**

Total sisters in Kenya as of 2017, a **42.7%** increase from 2012 to 2017.



**1,083**

Served by ASEC in Kenya, **532** by SLDI, **533** by HESA and **18** by Service Learning.



**\$4.7 M**

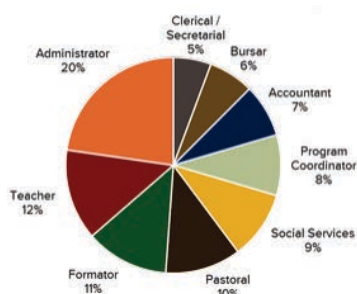
Funds raised by ASEC alumnae in Kenya for community projects.



**867 K**

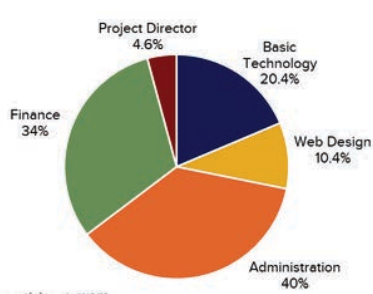
Individuals served and **1,785** jobs created by ASEC alumnae in Kenya.

## SLDI MINISTRIES



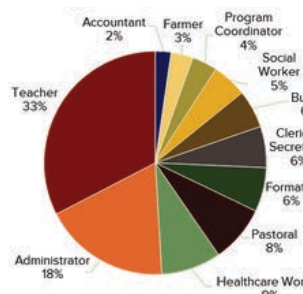
**20%** of 2019 SLDI participants in Kenya report **administration** as their ministry (N=99)

## SLDI TRACKS



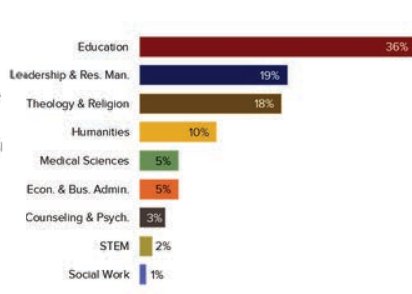
**40%** of SLDI participants were trained in **administration** and **34%** in **finance**, as of 2018 (N=432)

## HESA MINISTRIES



**33%** of HESA participants in Kenya report **teaching** as their ministry (N=218)

## HESA FIELDS OF STUDY



**36%** of HESA participants in Kenya are studying in the field of **education** (N=533)



**78%**

Received Leadership Position in her Ministry (N=138)



**89%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Ministry (N=130)



**86%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Congregation (N=134)

## Kenya



### REDUCING POVERTY THROUGH MICROLOANS FOR WOMEN IN KENYA

**Name:** Sr. Gisele Ndekezi Umurerwa, FMA, SLDI Administration Track, 2018  
Sr. Lucy Wegoki, FM, SLDI Finance Track, 2018

**Amount:** \$24,000

**Total Served:** 300 Individuals Over Three Years

**Project Areas:** Economic Empowerment for Women Through Microloans

Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco (FMA), are using the skills they learned in ASEC's Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI) program to reduce poverty among Kenyans living in urban slums through microloans.

Provincial Superior **Sr. Gisele Ndekezi Umurerwa, FMA**, and Development Executive Director **Sr. Lucy Wegoki, FMA**, both SLDI alumnae, joined forces with an external grant writer to put their newfound skills into action.

The goal for the program is twofold; to support the development of small business for women and to provide education for at risk children. The microloans pay the rent for the women's business location and cover their children's school fees.

Over a three year period, Sr. Gisele and Sr. Lucy provided loans to 300 women (and their families). Sr. Gisele shared her motivation to initiate this project:

*"This project is very important because it meets the needs of many families very poor and living in the slums of Dagoretti and Kibera. We have passion for this work because our charism is the integral education for young people mostly the poor ones and vulnerable."*

*"We found [it] necessary to educate the needy, to journey with the parents empowering them and helping them to be protagonists of the education of their children and encouraging them to reach self sustainability...the SLDI programs are helping us a lot to improve in our ministries and to serve people with confidence, many changes have happened from when we had chance to attend the course of Administration and Finance in ASEC. We are very grateful and happy to improve in our service and to improve lives of the people that we are serving in our various missions."*

Read more at [asec-sldi.org/microloans](http://asec-sldi.org/microloans)

### HESA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

49 HESA participants studying in Kenya have received awards:

- First Class Honors: 23
- Second Class Honors: 26

A celebration was held in Kenya on February 2, 2019 to launch ASEC's second book: Transformative Partnerships: Role of Agencies, Foundations, Institutions in Promoting Strategic Social and Sustainable Change for Women Religious in Africa. The book is available for purchase on Amazon.



### SERVICE LEARNING



### 18 Served by the Service Learning Program

In June 2017, students from Marywood University & Chestnut Hill College attended a 3-week service trip to Kenya. They provided service at various sites, including a refugee center, a hospital, a home for street boys and an orphanage for children with physical and mental disabilities.

### VISITING SCHOLAR



**Sr. Bibiana M. Ngundo, LSOSF, Ph.D., Kenya**, was the first sister scholar accepted for a six month research fellowship to learn applied research skills at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), Georgetown University. Sr. Bibiana visited ASEC headquarters in Scranton, PA, in March 2017.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



**Education** (56.8%) and **healthcare** (34.8%) are the top SDGs that ASEC alumnae in Kenya contribute to in their ministries (N=132).



# Lesotho



**541**

Total sisters in Lesotho as of 2017, a **17.9%** decrease from 2012 to 2017.



**65**

Served by ASEC in Lesotho, **55** by the SLDI program and **10** by the HESA program.



**\$21 K**

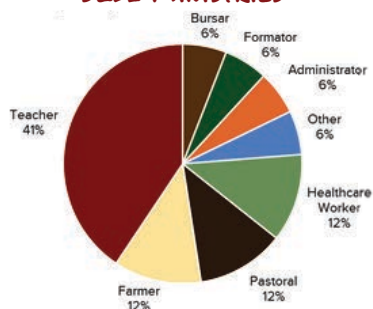
Funds raised by ASEC alumnae in Lesotho for community projects.



**450**

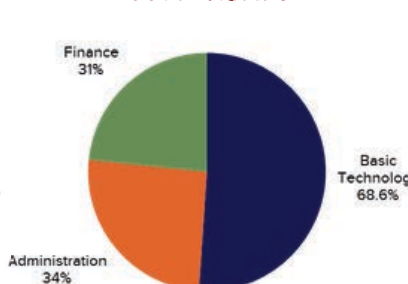
Individuals served by ASEC alumnae in Lesotho.

## SLDI MINISTRIES



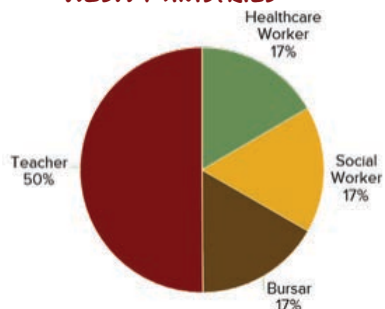
**41%** of 2019 SLDI participants in Lesotho report **teaching** as their ministry (N=17)

## SLDI TRACKS



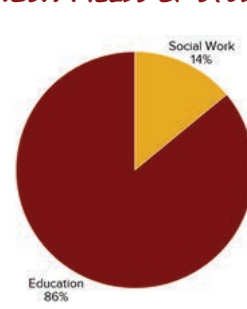
**34%** of SLDI participants were trained in **administration** and **31%** in **finance**, as of 2018 (N=35)

## HESA MINISTRIES



**50%** of HESA participants in Lesotho report **teaching** as their ministry (N=6)

## HESA FIELDS OF STUDY



**86%** of HESA participants in Lesotho are studying in the field of **education** (N=7)



**73%**

Received Leadership Position in her Ministry (N=11)



**82%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Ministry (N=11)



**82%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Congregation (N=11)

## Lesotho



### PROTECTING AND SERVING OLDER ADULTS IN LESOTHO

**Name:** Sr. Theresia Noko, SCO  
**Program:** SLDI Administration Track, 2018  
**Amount:** \$2,000+  
**Total Served:** 120+, Mentored 3 People  
**Project Areas:** Animal Rearing in Support of the Elderly

With old age comes a need to be taken care of. However, in Lesotho, it's common for the vulnerable, especially the elderly, to be robbed, raped and even murdered. With no vehicle to catch the criminals, police in Lesotho have a difficult time managing crime.

But Sr. Theresia Ntsoaki Noko, Sisters of Charity of Ottawa, is changing that reality.

ASEC's Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI) program gave Sr. Theresia the leadership and technology skills she needed to improve her ministry work. Her limited skills are no longer a barrier in her service to the elderly at Elizabeth Bruyere Old Age Home in Lesotho.

Sr. Theresia now has the confidence to speak to social development organizations on behalf of the facility and is using the grant writing skills she learned in SLDI to acquire a vehicle for the local police department. She's confident that a police vehicle will lower the crime rates and keep the elderly safe.

Sr. Theresia has put her skills to use outside her own ministry, and is helping her congregation in their efforts to open schools, a medical clinic, a nursing school and a bakery. She also reports mentoring three people individually and approximately 120 people in groups. Sr. Theresia is only beginning her post-SLDI journey of leadership and has already made significant contributions to her congregation and ministry.

Read more at [asec-sldi.org/elderly](http://asec-sldi.org/elderly)

### HESA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

All 10 HESA participants studying in Lesotho are pursuing bachelors degrees. They are studying in the following fields.

- Education Field: 6
- Social Work Field: 1
- Not Reported: 3

### FIRST ASEC ALUMNAE WORKSHOP HELD IN LESOTHO

The first ASEC Alumnae Workshop in Lesotho was held in January of 2019. 14 SLDI alumnae attended the workshop.



### SR. ALBERTINA COMPLETES SOCIAL WORK FIELD EXPERIENCE

Sr. Albertina Nkunyane, HS, Lesotho is a HESA student studying at the National University of Lesotho. As part of her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work program, Sr. Albertina completed her fieldwork experience at the Reitumetse Old Age Home this year. This practical experience provided her an opportunity to complete counseling and occupational therapy sessions with patients. Of the experience she says:

“I have been affirmed in my passion for social work and I know, for sure, that I have made a good choice of my course of study in preparation for an effective interaction with my people.”



### VISITING SCHOLAR

Sr. Aloysia Sebueng Makoe, SNJM, Lesotho, is the sixth sister scholar accepted for a six month research fellowship to learn applied research skills at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), Georgetown University. Sr. Aloysia will serve as the visiting scholar from February to August 2020 and will spend one week during this time at ASEC headquarters in Scranton, PA in 2020.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



Healthcare (89%) and no poverty (78%) are the top SDGs that ASEC alumnae in Lesotho contribute to in their ministries (N=9).



# Malawi



**1,080**

Total sisters in Malawi as of 2017, a **12.1%** increase from 2012 to 2017.



**313**

Served by ASEC in Malawi, **239** by SLDI, **24** by HESA and **47** by Scholarship.



**\$270 K**

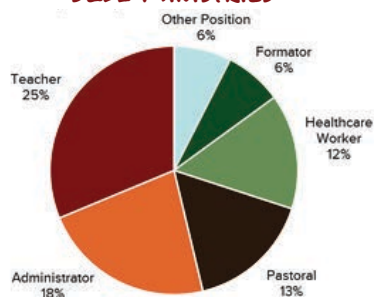
Funds raised by ASEC alumnae in Malawi for community projects.



**37,566**

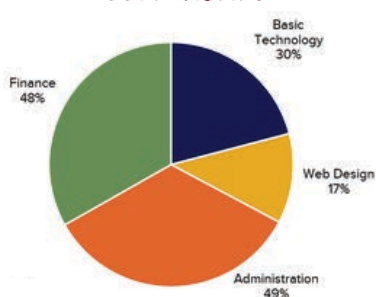
Individuals served and **80** jobs created by ASEC alumnae in Malawi.

## SLDI MINISTRIES



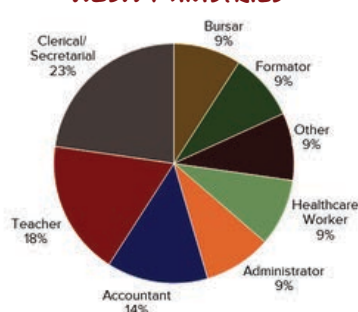
**25%** of 2019 SLDI participants in Malawi report **teaching** as their ministry (N=68)

## SLDI TRACKS



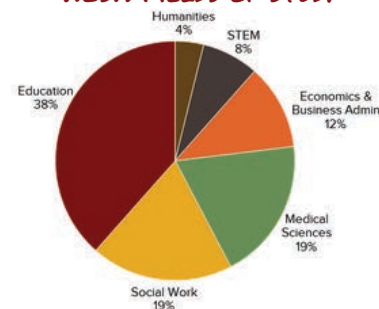
**49%** of SLDI participants were trained in **administration** and **48%** in **finance**, as of 2018 (N=170)

## HESA MINISTRIES



**23%** of HESA participants in Malawi report secretarial work as their ministry (N=22)

## HESA FIELDS OF STUDY



**38%** of HESA participants in Malawi are studying in the field of **education** (N=27)



**80%**

Received Leadership Position in her Ministry (N=45)



**83%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Ministry (N=40)



**93%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Congregation (N=42)

## Malawi



### FILLING HEALTHCARE GAPS IN MALAWI

**Name:** Sr. Magdalena Ndawla, TS  
**Program:** SLDI Administration Track, 2018  
**Amount:** \$11,000+  
**Total Served:** Mentored 61 People: 15 Individually, 46 in Groups  
**Project Areas:**

- Medical Care
- Nutrition and Feeding Program

Due to a lack of qualified workers, about one-third of healthcare positions in Malawi are vacant. A growing population and inadequate family planning services threaten any progress the country has made in reducing child and maternal deaths and HIV infection over the past twenty years.

But, Magdalena Ndawla, a Teresian Sister, is up to the challenge. She became Administrator of Alinafe Community Hospital upon completing ASEC's Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI) program. Now, she's using the collaboration, leadership and grant-writing skills she's learned to meet the ongoing needs of hospital staff and patients.

Sr. Magdalena improved hospital operations and financial procedures and wrote a strategic plan. She has secured over \$11,000 in funding for medications and a maize mill. She hopes that the maize mill will generate income to pay for medications in the future. She has also written a proposal to purchase an ambulance for the hospital and has developed various partnerships which have directly contributed to strengthening the hospital's board.

Sr. Magdalena's SLDI skills are helping her to succeed in her role as Hospital Administrator. *"I am confident that I can do something and I am ready to take risks even in the most difficult situations," she says.*

Read more at [asec-sldi.org/magda](https://asec-sldi.org/magda)

### IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY FOR NEW MOTHERS

Sr. Hellen Matchado, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (the Sacramentines), is an alumna of ASEC's Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI) program. She saw that lack of food security was plaguing the mothers and pregnant women in her community and knew that her new skills could solve some of their most pressing issues. So, she began to mobilize resources in order to support her congregation-ran health center in Lilongwe (Ulongwe). Using a multi-pronged approach, her project focused on reducing the number of malnourished children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Some of Sr. Hellen's projects include income-generating activities such as rearing goats, farming and a "kitchen" garden, building a bakery, and collaboration with local media.



### ASEC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



A total of 47 sisters from Malawi have received an ASEC Two-Year Scholarship, with 18 awarded in 2019. Recipients of the scholarships in Malawi are studying at the form 3, form 4 and diploma levels.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



**Healthcare** (55.5%) and **education** (22%) are the top SDGs that ASEC alumnae in Malawi contribute to in their ministries (N=45).



# Nigeria



**5,694**

Total sisters in Nigeria as of 2017, a **6.8%** increase from 2012 to 2017.



**581**

Served by ASEC in Nigeria, **433** by the SLDI program and **148** by the HESA program.



**\$2.15 M**

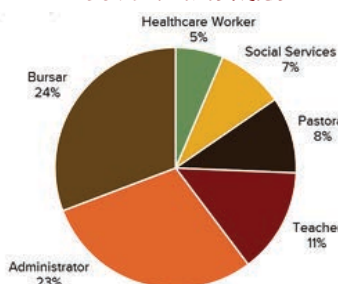
Funds raised by ASEC alumnae in Nigeria for community projects.



**42,750**

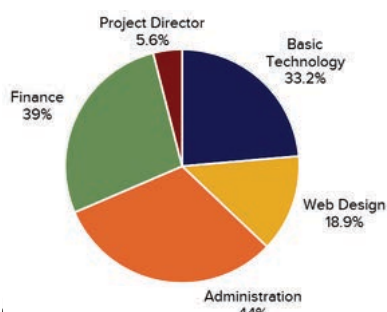
Individuals served and **419** jobs created by ASEC alumnae in Nigeria.

## SLDI MINISTRIES



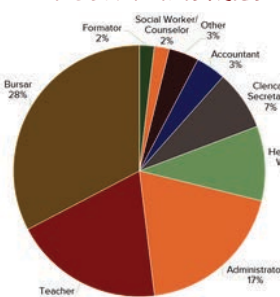
24% of 2019 SLDI participants in Nigeria report **bursar** as their ministry (N=75)

## SLDI TRACKS



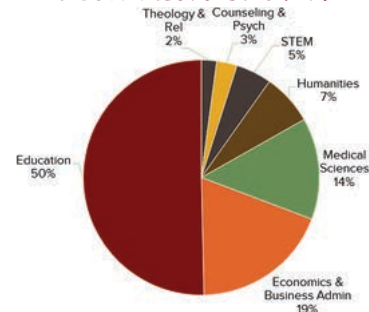
44% of SLDI participants were trained in **administration** and **39%** in **finance**, as of 2018 (N=355)

## HESA MINISTRIES



28% of HESA participants in Nigeria report **bursar** as their ministry (N=60)

## HESA FIELDS OF STUDY



50% of HESA participants in Nigeria are studying in the field of **education** (N=143)



**65%**

Received Leadership Position in her Ministry (N=78)



**95%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Ministry (N=82)



**87%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Congregation (N=78)

## Nigeria



### COMBINING HEALTH EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT TO SAVE LIVES

- Name:** Sr. Veronica Chibuzor Iloh, SJGS  
**Program:** SLDI, Finance Track, 2009  
**Total Served:** 250+  
**Project Areas:**
- Renovation of School and Home for the Needy
  - Solar Power for College and Orphanage
  - Research on Women Religious in Nigeria

Sr. Veronica provides HIV/AIDS-focused outreach and education to people in Ebonyin state, southeastern Nigeria. She educates people about HIV transmission and prevention strategies. She also incorporates economic empowerment as a tool in the fight against HIV/AIDS. She provides microfinance assistance for the vulnerable households to engage in economic activities; vocational training for youth; and life skills training.

She also secured farm inputs to improve household food security; helps vulnerable households secure property and inheritance rights; and constituted a village savings and loan association (VSLA). She has trained 250 community members in economic empowerment and plans to train more in the future.

Sr. Veronica shared the impact of her work through the example of a woman she assisted. The woman was widowed and was left in poverty after her husband's death. Sr. Veronica assisted the woman with a donation and financial literacy training and now this woman fully supports her family through sales of ogbono seeds which are used to make soup. Sr. Veronica says of her work:

*"I cannot imagine anything else being as interesting, challenging, exhilarating, and rewarding as some of the jobs I have had. Plus, every now and again, things go right, and you walk away feeling that, for some people, in some places, the world is a better place because of something you did."*

Read more at [asec-sldi.org/agu](http://asec-sldi.org/agu)

### HESA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

4 HESA participants in Nigeria have received awards:

- First Class Honors: 3
- Second Class Honors: 1



### VISITING SCHOLAR



Sr. Florence Emurayeveya, EHJ, Nigeria is the second sister scholar accepted for a six month research fellowship to learn applied research skills at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), Georgetown University. Sr. Florence visited ASEC headquarters in Scranton, PA, in December, 2019.

### SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

In Nigeria, SLDI alumna Sr. Emenaha Bibiana is the Coordinator for the Committee for the Support of Dignity of Women (COSUDOW) and is in charge of a shelter for trafficked girls and women who have returned to Nigeria to begin the transition back to a semblance of their past lives. Sr. Emenaha is focused on cultivating a strong support network for the women and girls at her shelter. At ASEC's 2016 alumnae meeting in Nigeria, she shared her expertise in human trafficking with participants,

stating, *"It's a very strong network and before you counteract it and fight it, you have to come up with another, stronger network."*



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



**Education** (63.1%) and **healthcare** (37.8%) are the top SDGs that ASEC alumnae in country contribute to in their ministries (N=95).



# South Sudan



**231**

Total sisters in South Sudan as of 2017, a **45.3%** increase from 2012 to 2017.



**69**

Served by ASEC in South Sudan, **67** by the SLDI program and **2** by the HESA program.



**\$329 K**

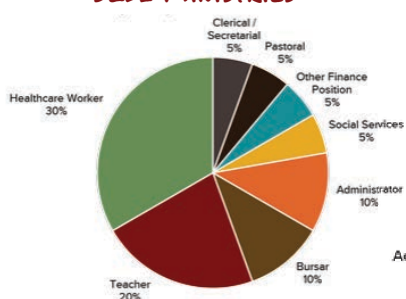
Funds raised by ASEC alumnae in South Sudan for community projects.



**3,695**

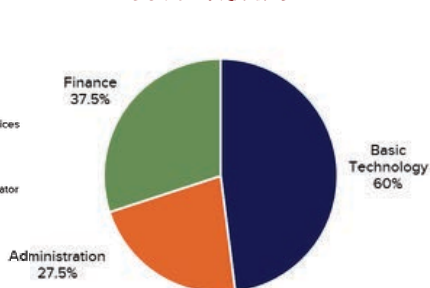
Individuals served and **13** jobs created by ASEC alumnae in South Sudan.

## SLDI MINISTRIES



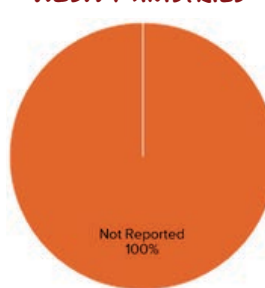
**30%** of 2019 SLDI participants in South Sudan report **healthcare worker** as their ministry (N=20)

## SLDI TRACKS



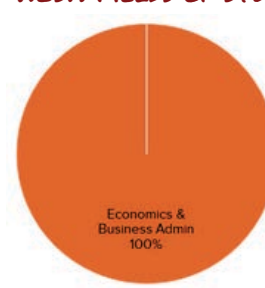
**37.5%** of SLDI participants were trained in **administration** and **27.5%** in **finance** as of 2018 (N=40)

## HESA MINISTRIES



**100%** of HESA participants in South Sudan **did not report** their ministries (N=2)

## HESA FIELDS OF STUDY



**100%** of HESA participants in South Sudan are studying in the field of **economics and business administration** (N=2)



**67%**

Received Leadership Position in her Ministry (N=6)



**100%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Ministry (N=5)



**83%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Congregation (N=6)

## South Sudan



### PROPOSAL WRITING SUCCESS

**Name:** Sr. Mary Faida, SHS  
**Program:** SLDI, Administration Track, 2015  
**Amount:** \$70,000  
**Project Areas:** Trauma-Informed Formation, Medical Care, Infrastructure

South Sudan's civil war has left more than half of the country dependent on aid. The harsh conditions and violence threaten innocent lives every single day. But Sr. Mary remains a beacon of hope for the people of South Sudan, working tirelessly for peace and providing promise for the future of her country.

An alumna of ASEC's SLDI program, Sr. Mary used the fundraising skills she's learned to raise over \$70,000 in support of trauma-informed formation, to care for the sick, and to fund other important projects in South Sudan.

*"All the proposals I wrote was after the ASEC/SLDI training. I had no idea about the proposal writing or fundraising before," she says.*

Despite South Sudan's bleak situation, Sr. Mary remains persistent and hopeful;

*"I don't think the present situation will be permanent. I think it will change... God is present."*

#### Grant Writing Achievements:

- Acquired vehicle for use in her congregation
- Provide trauma-informed formation to sisters in South Sudan who experienced the civil war (\$16,000). Received another \$5,000 in donations to continue this program.
- Funds to provide a sister with a kidney transplant. Unfortunately the sister passed before receiving the transplant but Sr. Mary successfully negotiated that those funds be used for sick sisters in the future (\$12,000).
- Repair of the congregation's solar power system (\$8,700).

Read more at [asec-sldi.org/faida](http://asec-sldi.org/faida)

### ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT: IMPROVED PATIENT CARE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

In the Amuru District in Northern Uganda, bordering South Sudan, nurses are in very short supply. SLDI Finance track alumna, Sr. Florence Drijaru, SHS, is one of the few available nurses to care for the sick. In fact, Sr. Florence works in a clinic that consists of herself and one other nurse.

When she began working at the clinic, Sr. Florence learned that she would have to do much more than care for patients. She would also have to care for the activities on the clinic's account. However, there was a big problem. *"I had little knowledge about accounts,"* said Sr. Florence. Through SLDI, Sr. Florence learned to keep records of account, spend in an organized way, and evaluate the accounts by looking at income and expenditures. She has been able to buy the clinic drugs that are so expensive that government hospitals are not able to provide for the patients.



Sr. Florence's skills can be illustrated through the case of a mother who brought in her three month old baby with a 103 degree fever. The baby had malaria. Sr. Florence immediately worked to reduce the child's fever. Once the fever went down, she was able to counsel the mother on how she would be able to better care for the child in its condition. *"The knowledge I got from ASEC is what helped me to counsel the mother and encourage her to finish the child's treatment,"* said Sr. Florence. *"Therefore, I was able to educate the mother on health in a more efficient way."*

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



**Education** (83.3%) and **clean water** (66.6%) are the top SDGs that ASEC alumnae in country contribute to in their ministries (N=6).



# Tanzania



**11,697**

Total sisters in Tanzania as of 2017, an **11%** increase from 2012 to 2017.



**945**

Served by ASEC in Tanzania, **468** by SLDI, **146** by HESA, **275** by Scholarship and **56** by Service Learning



**\$1.4 M**

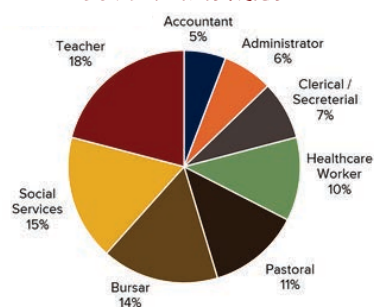
Funds raised by ASEC alumnae in Tanzania for community projects.



**224 K**

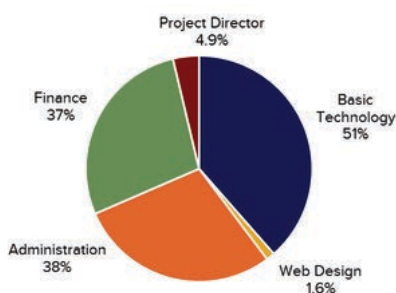
Individuals served and **475** jobs created by ASEC alumnae in Tanzania.

## SLDI MINISTRIES



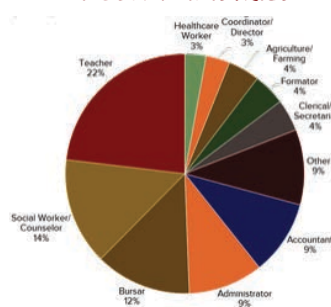
**18%** of 2019 SLDI participants in Tanzania report **teaching** as their ministry (N=99)

## SLDI TRACKS



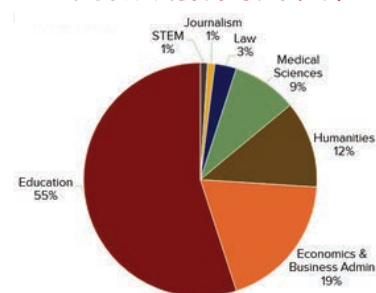
**38%** of SLDI participants were trained in **administration** and **37%** in **finance**, as of 2018 (N=367)

## HESA MINISTRIES



**22%** of HESA participants in Tanzania report **teaching** as their ministry (N=74)

## HESA FIELDS OF STUDY



**55%** of HESA participants in Tanzania are studying in the field of **education** (N=139)



**63%**

Received Leadership Position in her Ministry (N=78)



**94%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Ministry (N=81)



**96%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Congregation (N=82)

## Tanzania



### REBUILDING TANZANIA INFRASTRUCTURE, ONE BRICK AT A TIME

**Name:** Sr. Benedicta Anslem, ESM  
**Program:** SLDI Administration Track, 2009  
**Amount:** \$75,000+  
**Total Served:** 4,700+ (including 600 children), Created 75 Jobs  
**Project Areas:** Womens Empowerment, Clean Water, Education, Infrastructure

With leaky roofs and cracked floors, many buildings in Tanzania aren't constructed with long-term use in mind. It's common for structures to collapse, causing injury and leaving residents without basic necessities.

But Sr. Benedicta, Evangelizing Sisters of Mary, is changing that reality. Using skills she learned in ASEC's Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI) program, Sr. Benedicta gets her congregation's projects off the ground... literally.

She's raised over \$75,000 in funds for community projects such as a school, a chapel and even a solar pumping water station. It's not uncommon to find her on site, tool in hand, participating in the actual construction!

When she's not building, Sr. Benedicta evangelizes in rural communities.

*"Our charism is first evangelization... in the remote area. Where Christ is not heard. Where Christ has not reached," she says.*

Read more at [asec-sldi.org/benedicta](http://asec-sldi.org/benedicta)

### HESA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

20 HESA sisters studying in Tanzania received awards, including 8 with First Class Honors and 10 with Second Class Honors.

### VISITING SCHOLAR



Sr. Hellen Anthony Bandiho, STH, Tanzania is the fourth sister scholar accepted for a six month research fellowship to learn applied research skills at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), Georgetown University. Sr. Hellen visited ASEC headquarters in Scranton, PA, from March 3-8, 2019.

### ASEC TWO-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A total of 275 sisters from Tanzania have received an ASEC Two-Year Scholarship, with 47 awarded in 2019. The Bigwa Secondary School, located in Tanzania and supported by ASEC through faculty stipends, was awarded a Best Academic Performance Award from the President's Office of Regional Administration and Local Government in October 2019.

### SERVICE LEARNING



56 students have attended service trips to Tanzania, providing service at various sites, including orphanages, schools and a home for street boys.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



**Education** (66.2%) and **no poverty** (43%) are the top SDGs that ASEC alumnae in country contribute to in their ministries (N=86).



# Uganda



**3,627**  
Total sisters in Uganda as of 2017, an **1.3%** increase from 2012 to 2017.



**671**  
Served by ASEC in Uganda, **463** by the SLDI program and **208** by the HESA program

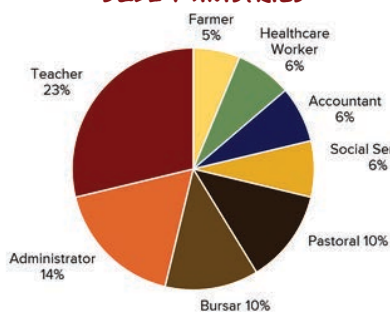


**\$1.7 M**  
Funds raised by ASEC alumnae in Uganda for community projects.



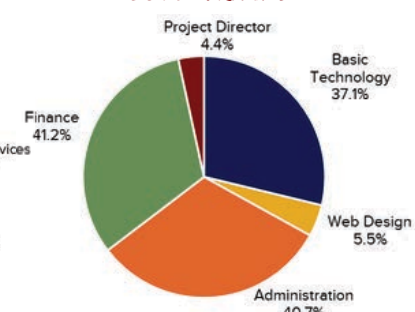
**24,457**  
Individuals served and **223** jobs created by ASEC alumnae in Uganda.

## SLDI MINISTRIES



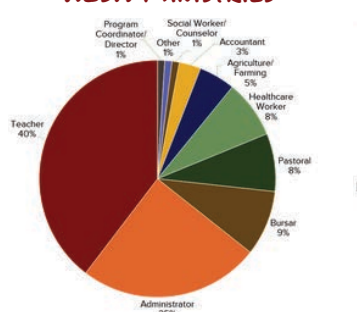
**23%** of 2019 SLDI participants in Uganda report **teaching** as their ministry (N=99)

## SLDI TRACKS



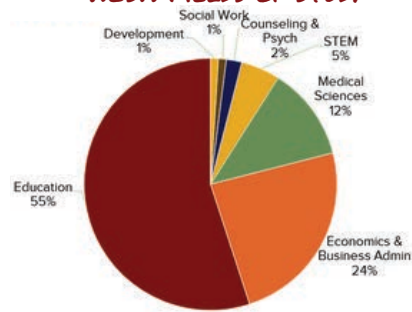
**41.2%** of SLDI participants were trained in **finance** and **40.7%** in **administration**, as of 2018 (N=364)

## HESA MINISTRIES



**40%** of HESA participants in Uganda report **teaching** as their ministry (N=116)

## HESA FIELDS OF STUDY



**55%** of HESA participants in Uganda are studying in the field of **education** (N=208)



**85%**

Received Leadership Position in her Ministry (N=96)



**95%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Ministry (N=87)



**90%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Congregation (N=97)

## Uganda



### IMPROVING GIRLS EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE IN UGANDA

**Name:** Sr. Mary Lilian Baitwakakye, OLGC  
**Program:** SLDI Project Directors Track, 2008  
**Amount:** \$370,000+  
**Total Served:** 700 Children, 280 Caretakers  
**Project Areas:** Education, Healthcare, Sustainable Agriculture, Access to Water, Economic Empowerment, Children's Needs, Gender Equality

Since completing SLDI, Sr. Lilian has achieved a lot of grant writing success, obtaining nearly \$300,000 in funding to support many projects throughout Uganda that are helping her congregation, young children and orphans with HIV/AIDS.

Sr. Lilian serves as the Director of the HIV/AIDS Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Project. She also founded the OVC, which focuses on providing educational opportunities to orphaned children with HIV/AIDS. Sr. Lilian and her staff of nearly 300 caretakers use an integrated approach to HIV/AIDS that includes prevention, care, counseling and psychosocial support for the orphans. The goal is to provide these vulnerable children with access to formal education. The OVC also supports them in acquiring vocational and business skills so they can become self-reliant.

Sr. Lilian has been able to raise grant funding to cover school tuition for many of the orphans. Since 1994, the OVC has provided support to over 700 orphans. Sr. Lilian also organizes educational workshops for the children's caretakers in order to improve service to the children.

#### Grant Writing Achievements:

- Boni Consilii Girls' Vocational Secondary School construction: 2 classroom blocks, an assembly hall, an administration block and water tank installation (≈\$100K)
- OLGC construction: chapel, dining hall, 3 block dormitories, 6 latrines, 10 shower rooms and a laboratory block (≈\$100K)
- School fees for children served by HIV/AIDS Orphans and Vulnerable children project (≈\$60K)
- Workshop for sisters to better serve orphans with HIV/AIDS (\$10K)

Read more at [asec-sldi.org/lilian](http://asec-sldi.org/lilian)

### HESA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

7 HESA participants studying in Uganda have received Second Class Honors.

### HESA PARTNERS CONFERENCE



Sixty-eight representatives from 23 colleges and universities, 10 national associations of women religious and ASEC staff, participated in the first Higher Education for Sisters in Africa (HESA) partners conference held June 19-23, 2019 in Kampala, Uganda.

### 2019 SITE VISITS IN UGANDA



In June 2019, ASEC staff and partners visited several ASEC alumnae projects in Uganda to learn more about how ASEC programs are helping sisters in their ministries and service to the poor and marginalized:

- Kikyusa Primary & Secondary Schools
- Mapeera Bakateyamba Home for the Elderly & Sick
- Nkozi Hospital
- Cabana Sisters' Bread Bakery

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



**Ending poverty** (53.1%) and **healthcare** (46.8%) are the top SDGs that ASEC alumnae in country contribute to in their ministries (N=94).



# Zambia



**2,025**

Total sisters in Zambia as of 2017, a **1.4%** decrease from 2012 to 2017.



**440**

Served by ASEC in Zambia, **355** by SLDI, **38** by HESA and **47** by Scholarship.



**\$2.8 M**

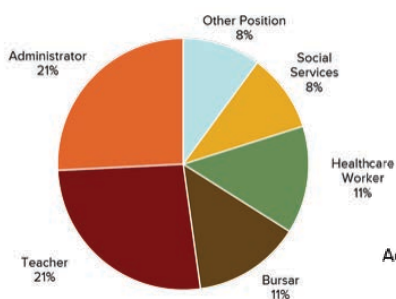
Funds raised by ASEC alumnae in Zambia for community projects.



**82,867**

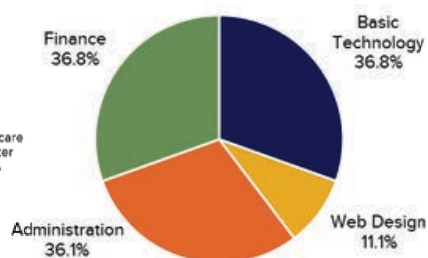
Individuals served and **205** jobs created by ASEC alumnae in Zambia.

## SLDI MINISTRIES



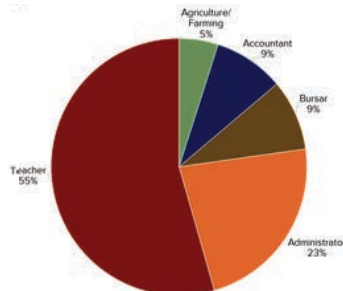
**42%** of 2019 SLDI participants in Zambia report **administration (21%)** or **teaching (21%)** as their ministry (N=73)

## SLDI TRACKS



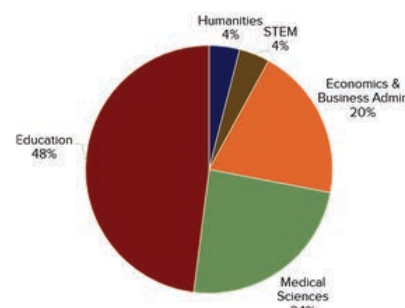
**36.8%** of SLDI participants were trained in **finance** and **36.1%** in **administration**, as of 2018 (N=280)

## HESA MINISTRIES



**55%** of HESA participants in Zambia report **teaching** as their ministry (N=22)

## HESA FIELDS OF STUDY



**48%** of HESA participants in Zambia are studying in the field of **education** (N=25).



**70%**

Received Leadership Position in her Ministry (N=27)



**96%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Ministry (N=25)



**92%**

Demonstrated Effective Use of Skills in her Congregation (N=24)

## Zambia



### PROVIDING ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE

**Name:** Sr. Anastasia M. Kalingeme  
**Program:** ASEC Two-Year Scholarship Program  
**Project Areas:** Healthcare to Rural Communities

Zambia operates under the World Health Organization (WHO)'s minimum threshold of doctors, nurses, and midwives (22.8 per 10,000 persons), with only 11.2 medical professionals per 10,000 people. Shortages remain the highest in rural areas, where attraction and retention rates continue to be a problem.

**Sr. Anastasia M. Kalingeme**, Sisters of Mercy, endeavors to assist in filling the healthcare professional gap by providing quality healthcare services in her rural Zambian community.

With the support of ASEC's **Two-Year Scholarship Program**, Sr. Anastasia attended the Chainama College of Health Science and earned her Bachelor's of Clinical Science in June 2018. Since that time, Sr. Anastasia reports that she has been serving, *"in a rural place, where doctors shun to go and work"* and that the training she received has equipped her with the skills to perform surgical procedures.

Sr. Anastasia provides **obstetric, gynecological, and surgical treatment** to patients who would otherwise have limited to no access to medical care. Of the education she received, Sr. Anastasia writes that she has been able to, *"acquire skills that will last forever in serving life in communities where I live and serve."*

Sr. Anastasia is dedicated to her patients and says, *"I find happiness in doing my service and satisfied when I see my patients well and discharged from hospital back to their homes."*

Read more at [asec-sldi.org/ana](http://asec-sldi.org/ana)

### EDUCATING CHILDREN IN ZAMBIA

Sr. Rita Hamuwele Mapenzi, LSMI, was awarded an ASEC **Two-Year Scholarship** in 2016 to attend the Kasama College of Education. In December 2018, Sr. Rita graduated with her **Diploma in Primary Education** and felt well prepared to teach children at the primary school level.



Sr. Rita says after completing her education, *"I am ready to help that little child there, to grow both in spirit, in knowledge, and in the love of God."*

She also says of the ASEC program, *"Many thanks to ASEC for continuous support ensuring that we understood why we were studying helping the most vulnerable in society, women and children. To keep my charism and spirituality during my studies...and how to handle the challenges of life."*

Sr. Rita is now serving as a primary school teacher in Kasama, Zambia. She's implementing the knowledge and skills she learned in the program to benefit her community. She is also a positive role model to young girls, encouraging them to pursue their own education.

Read more at [asec-sldi.org/rita](http://asec-sldi.org/rita)

### VISITING SCHOLAR



**Sr. Joan Chisala, CSJB, Zambia**, is the third sister scholar accepted for a six month research fellowship to learn applied research skills at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), Georgetown University. Sr. Joan visited ASEC headquarters in Scranton, PA, in November, 2018. Sr. Joan also became an ASEC staff member in 2019, serving as Zambia's ASEC Programs Coordinator.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



**Education** (66.6%) and **healthcare** (40.7%) are the top SDGs that ASEC alumnae in country contribute to in their ministries (N=27).