

**JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021**  
**PHASE III, YEAR 1**

# **HIGHER EDUCATION FOR SISTERS IN AFRICA**

## **Progress Evaluation Report**



**PREPARED FOR: THE CONRAD N. HILTON FOUNDATION**  
**GRANTEE: MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY**  
**GRANT NUMBER: 16584 (PHASE II) & 24490 (PHASE III)**  
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# Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the Evaluation Unit within the African Sisters Education Collaborative at Marywood University.

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**On the Cover:** A tribute to Sr. Joan Chisala, CSJB former ASEC Programs Coordinator – Zambia who passed away on June 16, 2021 from COVID-19. Sr. Joan was the second ASEC staff member to lose her battle with COVID-19. Sr. Joan was vibrant, energetic, and friendly, with brilliant ideas and a charming smile. May she rest in eternal peace.

To request a full copy of any of ASEC's evaluation reports, please contact [tara.lopatofsky@asec-sldi.org](mailto:tara.lopatofsky@asec-sldi.org).

# Higher Education for Sisters in Africa (HESA)

Program Evaluation Key Outcomes Phase III, Year 1 (June 2021)



## 5 OBJECTIVES



Provide opportunities for Catholic sisters to **access & obtain post-secondary education**.



Increase sisters' competencies in their fields, toward **greater effectiveness in their ministries**.



Increase sisters' capacity to **strengthen the sustainability & internal systems of their congregations**.



Assist HESA alumnae to use their acquired skills & knowledge to **enhance & sustain their ministries / congregations**.



**Disseminate best practices** & learnings from ASEC & HESA, as well as models of innovative access to education.

## KEY OUTCOME FIGURES

**24**

Partnerships Maintained

Renewals:

1 MOU

5 FORs

**602**

Total HESA Graduates

60% with Honors:

107 First Class

105 Second Class

45 Other

**65**

Sisters Have Withdrawn

Top 3 Reasons:

1. Left Congregation

2. Institution Request

3. Personal Issues

## WORKSHOP SUCCESSES

Orientation Attendance Rate (N = 301)

**97%**

99% (n = 301) of HESA sisters in Phase III, Yr 1 reported that Orientation met or exceeded their expectations.

Reflective Learning Attendance Rate (N = 909)

**96%**

99% (n = 838) of HESA sisters reported increased competency after completing 2021 RL Workshops.

Alumnae Workshop Attendance Rate (N = 480)

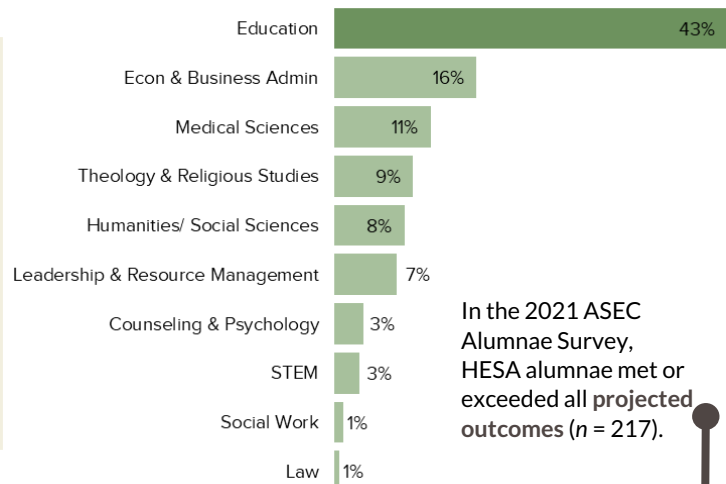
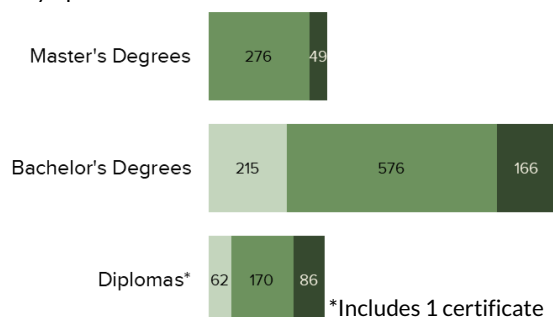
**46%**

93% (n = 217) of HESA alumnae reported that 2021 Alumnae Workshops met or exceeded their expectations.

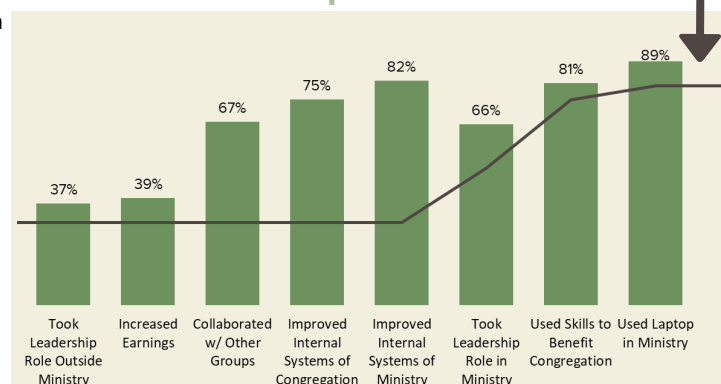
In Phases I, II, 43% (N = 1,600) of sisters are studying in the field of **education**.



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



In the 2021 ASEC Alumnae Survey, HESA alumnae met or exceeded all projected outcomes (n = 217).





# Higher Education for Sisters in Africa (HESA)

## Phase III, Year 1 Executive Summary



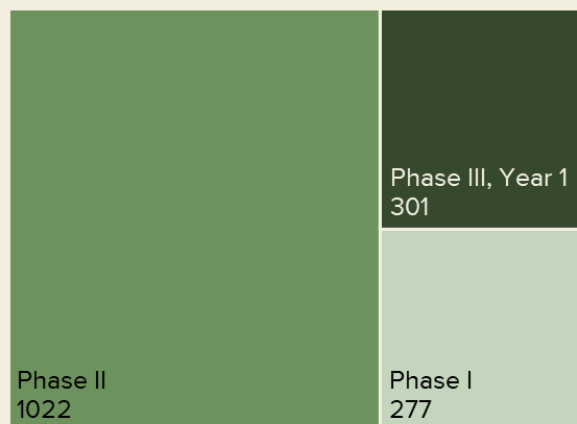
Data collected in Phase III, Year 1, indicates that HESA is on track to meet or surpass all Phase III objectives by the end of the phase. Programming in HESA Phase III, Year 1, was **highly rated in satisfaction** by participants with only slight recommendations for improvement. Continued data collection from Phase II graduates in the 2021 ASEC Alumnae Survey also suggests that HESA alumnae are successful in implementing the education they obtained from the program, **creating positive impacts at the ministerial, congregational, and societal levels**. It is anticipated that HESA Phase III will also be successful and the continuation of the program will create even more positive impacts for Catholic sisters in Africa.

### HESA Phase III Objectives include:

1. To provide opportunities for Catholic sisters in 10 African countries to access and obtain post-secondary education credentials through onsite and online distance learning;
2. To increase sisters in Africa's competencies and leadership capacities in their respective fields of study, towards greater effectiveness in accomplishing their ministries;
3. To increase African sisters' capacity to strengthen the sustainability and internal systems of their congregations;
4. To assist HESA alumnae to become lifelong learners, educators, and leaders who use their acquired skills and knowledge to enhance and sustain their ministries and/or congregations;
5. To disseminate best practices and learnings from ASEC and the HESA program, as well as models of innovative access to education.

HESA has grown to serve **1,514 unique sisters** (Phases I - II, 1,600 enrollments) from 248 congregations in 10 African countries since its inception in 2012. In Phase III, Year 1, a total of **301 sisters** were recruited and enrolled in the program. Of the 1,600 total enrollments in the program, **933 sisters are currently enrolled** online or onsite at 24 partner higher education institutions (HEIs) and **602 sisters have graduated**.

Sisters have been served a total of 1,600 times in HESA Phases I, II, & III (1,514 unique sisters). In Phase III, Year 1 301 sisters were enrolled.



### Phase I - III Enrollments Levels of Study

325 Masters  
957 Bachelors  
317 Diplomas  
1 Certificate

**96%**  
Overall Retention Rate

**96%**  
Phase II Retention Rate

**97%**  
Phase III Retention Rate

### PHASE III, YR 1 WORKSHOPS

12 Orientations held in 8 countries

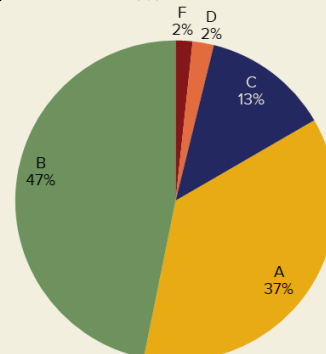
11 Reflective Learning Workshops held in 10 countries

15 ASEC Alumnae Workshops held in 10 countries

**181**  
the number of distinct diplomas/degrees Phase I - III sisters are earning.

**91%**  
Online to Onsite Transfer Success Rate

The majority of HESA Phase I-III students average a **B letter grade** per semester (N = 3,204 semester grade averages of 880 students).



# Higher Education for Sisters in Africa (HESA)

## Phase III, Year 1 Executive Summary Cont'd



### HESA IMPACT 2021 ALUMNAE RESULTS

**99%**

feel participating in HESA made them a better student ( $n = 135$ ).

**98%**

feel more confident as a result of participating in the HESA program ( $n = 135$ ).

**98%**

received a diploma/degree that is relevant to their ministry ( $n = 135$ ).

**98%**

received a diploma/degree that will help meet the needs of their community ( $n = 135$ ).

**95%**

gained specific skills from participating in the HESA program, that they otherwise would not have achieved ( $n = 135$ ).

**92%**

can effectively use the knowledge/skills they gained to benefit their ministry ( $n = 217$ ).

**84%**

feel perception of themselves as a professional and/or leader has changed ( $n = 217$ ).

\*Includes data from both Phase I & Phase II graduates

In total, 65 sisters have withdrawn from the program, accounting for an overall (Phase I - II) retention rate of 96%.

Data regarding the impact of the HESA program was gathered in Phase III, Year 1, using the End of Experience Assessment, ASEC Alumnae Surveys, the 19-20 ICB Congregation Survey, and virtual interviews. These tools, among others, have assisted in capturing the impact of the program at the ministerial, congregational, and human development levels. They have also informed program delivery and have resulted in program adjustments to address challenges.

Despite COVID-19 pandemic related adjustments, the HESA program has continued to serve sisters in all 10 African countries and had persevered through global uncertainty to meet the needs of its participants.



**Over \$2 million raised in funding**

through HESA alumnae community projects



**430+ academic awards received**

84% of HESA students average an A or B letter grade



**230+ research contributions**

36 are related to Catholic sisters in Africa

### Serving Children with Disabilities in Tanzania

**Sr. Elizabeth Didas Swai, LSOSF**

**Institution:** University of Kisubi, Uganda

**Credentials:** Masters of Arts in Counseling Psychology

**Graduated:** October 2019



Sr. Elizabeth Didas Swai, LSOSF, is the director of the non-profit **Mama Kevina Hope Center for Children with Disabilities** in Tanzania. Since graduating from the HESA program with her Masters of Arts in Counseling Psychology, Sr. Elizabeth has developed her leadership roles within her ministry – achieving promotions from bakery manager, to social worker/administrator, and now center director. As director of the residential and outpatient facility, Sr. Elizabeth works to provide therapeutic services to about **600 children with special needs** and their parents.

### ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT