

JANUARY 1, 2019 TO MAY 31, 2025

ASEC RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Final Evaluation Report



PREPARED BY: ASEC MONITORING & EVALUATION UNIT

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Acknowledgements

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

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On the Cover: 2023 International Consultative Research Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, June 2023.

To request a full copy of any of ASEC's evaluation reports, please contact research@asec-sldi.org.

ASEC Research Initiative

Final Evaluation Key Outcomes (May 2025)



RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Since 2019, ASEC has produced 14 scholarly research contributions and presented at 66 national conferences and events.




9 8 Academic Journal Articles Published
1 Journal Articles Under Consideration

2 Doctoral Dissertations Defended

3 Book Chapter(s) Published

WEBINARS + CONFERENCES

Since 2019, ASEC has partnered with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to host research based conferences and webinars for women religious. These offerings have included:

-  1st International Consultative Research (ICR) Conference held virtually in September 2020 for 58 scholars representing 12 countries.
-  Webinar on the intersection of Charism, Spirituality, Mission, and Ministry in March 2021 for 61 representatives from the national conferences/associations of women religious in the 10 countries ASEC serves and Zimbabwe.
-  2nd ICR Conference held in-person in Kenya in June 2023 for 27 scholars from 11 countries.



10 CARA-ASEC
Visiting Scholars
Hosted



9 Special
Evaluation Reports
Disseminated



4 Doctoral
Scholarships,
1 Graduate

IMPACT RESEARCH



Alumnae
Tracer Study
Uganda

The ASEC Alumnae Tracer Study in Uganda was placed on hold due to COVID-19 related delays.



Congregation
Leaders
Survey

A total of 512 religious superiors, representing 397 congregations completed the 19-20 & 23-24 surveys.



Third Book

ASEC's third book publication remains on hold due to lack of funding and minimal staff resources.

DATABASE DEVELOPMENT



Programs
Data

Data has been successfully integrated from all 5 major ASEC programs into 1 central database.



Database
Process
Manual

US & Africa Staff have been trained on use and a Database Process Manual has been developed.



Data
Inventory

An ASEC Data Inventory has been maintained as a resource for all stakeholders, including a Metadata Catalog and Code Book.

2022 RICHARD CARDINAL CUSHING MEDAL RECIPIENT



The Research Initiative was recognized for its efforts and awarded the **Richard Cardinal Cushing Medal for the Advancement of Church Research** by CARA, earned through the active support of Church research and possessing an understanding of its uses.

ASEC accepted the award on November 7, 2022 in Washington, D.C., U.S.



ASEC Research Initiative

Final Evaluation Report Executive Summary (2019-2025)



The purpose of ASEC's Research Initiative is to promote research on Catholic sisters in Africa. The initiative is designed to increase African women religious' research skills, provide opportunities for them to engage in research projects, and develop ASEC as a central repository of data related to women religious in Africa.

Much was achieved by the ASEC Research Initiative from January 2019 to May 2025. At the end of May 2025 the Research Initiative has met or surpassed the majority of its anticipated output/outcome measures (67%, $N = 12$). The output/outcome measure that were not met were inhibited by lack of funding, staff resources, and time.

Further, the efforts of the initiative were recognized by the boarder Church research community in 2022 with the receipt of the *Richard Cardinal Cushing Medal for the Advancement of Church Research*. Recommendations for the future of the Research Initiative include developing new objectives, considering new ways for collaboration and partnership, and focusing more on fundraising for the initiative. Key findings of the final evaluation include: the importance of collaboration in the success of the ASEC Research Initiative, the integration of all five ASEC programs into the database, and a need for specific staff once again assigned to the initiative.

4 OBJECTIVES



Provide workshop and conference opportunities for sisters to engage them in research dissemination and publication.



Develop opportunities for women religious to engage in collaborative research projects.



Collect, analyze, and share data about African women religious, their historical background, ministries, institutional systems, and impact on human development.



Create a central repository of research data related to sisters, congregations, and national conferences that have participated in ASEC's programs.

Predicting Future Deforestation Levels in Malawi

Sr. Agnes Kachali, SHR

HESA: Phase II, Bachelor of Education in Geography, Catholic University of Malawi, Graduated September 2024

Research Contribution: Predicating Future Levels of Deforestation Using Remote Sensing in Mzima District

Current Ministry: Teacher, Kaseye Girls Secondary School, Chitipa District, Malawi

Sr. Agnes' study used a mixed methods Earth observation technique to predict future deforestation trends in Mzima for 2030. Her findings indicate that without intervention, Mzima District can expect to see further declining trends in vegetative cover by 2030, to the detriment of the citizens of Malawi. Sr. Agnes continues to spread awareness of the negative impact of deforestation as a teacher in the classroom and in the broader community.



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

HESA STUDENT RESEARCH

