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NEWSLETTER

October 2024

Editors' Note



Dear Reader,

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural issue of the Knowledge Innovation Exchange-Strengthening and Enhancing Education Data Systems (KIX-SEEDS) Newsletter. A special shout-out to the entire KIX-SEEDS team, without whom this newsletter would not be possible.

The origin and intentionality behind the name, "SEEDS", is simple. In the natural world, a seed is capable of growing into something new. Similarly, our project was born out of a previous initiative, making "KIX-SEEDS" a befitting name—an evolution that embodies growth, renewal, and potential.

Over the past few months, we have had the opportunity to connect with each other, both in person and virtually, to help kickstart the KIX-SEEDS project. To further build-up on these interactions, we share through this newsletter updates on the projects across the different countries, knowledge pieces, and developments in our area of research.

While our primary audience for this newsletter is internal, we hope to ultimately create a publication that we can proudly share externally with fellow researchers, policymakers, teachers, and other education champions. To successfully do this, we welcome your participation through commentaries on our research topic, case studies, opinion pieces, and progress updates relevant to all our stakeholders.

For this first issue, the theme is Communicating Research. In here, you will find tips on the different and effective ways to communicate research, which we believe will be useful when engaging the different stakeholders during the period of this project and beyond.

Finally, we encourage your participation in the KIX-SEEDS newsletter. Share with us your work on education, data systems and governance, reports on

promising developments or any other topical issues you wish to communicate to the team. We will be happy to have your voice in our next issue.

We hope that you will find KIX-SEEDS not only informative but enjoyable. We are delighted that you are joining us as readers and hope you will also join us as contributors in the upcoming issues.

Happy Reading!

Chao and Diama
Co-Editors



Diama Diop Dia
Senior Communications Officer - APHRC



Chao Shete
Communications Officer - APHRC

From the Project Leader

Greetings Team,

On **May 9, 2024**, we officially launched the KIX-SEEDS project. Since then we have conducted a series of events and meetings—many of them virtual—that have maintained our momentum over the past five months. While I believe we all have a solid grasp of our roles and the project's goals by now, I also recognize the value in reiterating our core objectives to ensure we remain aligned and on course.

With that in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to briefly revisit our project overview and reaffirm our focus as we move forward.

As we've emphasized many times before, the KIX-SEEDS project was born from a commitment to strengthen and enhance education data systems across sub-Saharan Africa. This initiative builds on previous research and efforts by our predecessors. Our focus on scaling stems from a recognition that in many sub-Saharan African countries, weak data systems at sub-national levels hinder timely and effective decision-making.

Funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and implemented by the African Population and Health Research Center in partnership with in-country collaborators, the KIX-SEEDS project aims to strengthen education sector data value chains in selected subnational units in Uganda, Burkina Faso, and Senegal. The project will adapt, scale up, integrate, and strengthen promising sub-national examples of education data systems to improve decision-making and outcomes in the education sector.

To unpack the scaling of impact of promising innovations for data systems and data use in education, the project shall answer the following questions:

- i. What are effective strategies to adapt, scale, and implement promising innovations in equitable, and sustainable ways?
- ii. What factors enable, incentivize, or impede the scaling of these innovations?
- iii. How can these innovations promote gender equality, equity, inclusion (GEI) and track youth transition into formal or informal employment?

We will work closely with different the country stakeholders towards achieving the following outcomes:

- Relevant education sector data that responds to actual needs of local communities.
- Enhanced education data systems with child-level and school-level data.
- Holistic school or sub-national report cards that inform increased cross-country learning and sharing experiences.
- Enhanced education data systems with gender, equality, equity and inclusion indicators.

Ultimately, our goal is to generate knowledge that addresses the overall research question: How can the impact of promising or proven innovations for data systems and data use be scaled in order to support transformative change in education systems in GPE partner countries?

I take the opportunity to sincerely thank the KIX-SEEDS teams - both in Nairobi and in Dakar - for the excellent support you offer to the local implementing partners in Uganda, Senegal and Burkina Faso. I wish to, once again, congratulate the country implementing partners for being meritoriously selected to support implementation of the KIX-SEEDS project in their respective countries.



Damazo Kadengye

Head of Data Synergy & Evaluations - APHRC
KIX-SEEDS Project Leader



Updates from the Project Manager

Our In-Country Implementing Partners

At the heart of this project are our partners, and we're fortunate to have assembled an incredible team of not only experts but visionaries across all our implementing countries. Achieving our goals will therefore require collective efforts and collaboration, which is why I am truly excited to work alongside these remarkable institutions. That said, allow me to reintroduce our partners:

Uganda

The KIX-SEEDS project in Uganda will be implemented by the Health Information Systems Program (HISP), based in Kampala. HISP Uganda is composed of a dedicated team of informaticians and public health professionals and also draws upon the community of the Global HISP Networks for specific expertise. HISP Uganda subscribes to, and supports the broader HISP agenda of creating "networks of action". It seeks to strengthen collaborative action by learning and sharing information systems, including software development, customization, installation, training, and implementation experiences, in a collective network.

Building on this foundation, the KIX-SEEDS project implementation in Uganda employs a holistic and inclusive approach combining identification of capacity-related gaps in education data systems at various levels, data integration, monitoring and evaluation and knowledge sharing. This approach leverages on insights, knowledge and experiences from three years of implementing a IDRC GPE-KIX education data use innovations project in four Local Governments (LGs) and 10 implementation sites in Uganda. The project will leverage this platform to scale, adapt and strengthen sub-national education data systems. HISP Uganda has selected four sites for implementation: Entebbe Municipal Council, Mayuge

District Local Government (DLG), Gulu DLG and Gulu City.

Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, the KIX-SEEDS project implementation has been entrusted to the Institute Superior of Sciences and Population (ISSP) based in Ouagadougou. ISSP is a teaching, training, research and expertise institution in population and development at the University Joseph Ki-Zerbo (formerly the University of Ouagadougou). Its deliberative bodies are: The Management Board, the Scientific Board, the Assembly of Training or Research Units and the Executive Committee meeting.

ISSP has extensive experience in collecting and analyzing both quantitative and qualitative data, a strength recognized throughout the sub-region, which earned it the designation of Regional Centre of Excellence by UEMOA in 2005.

As part of the KIX-SEEDS project, ISSP will work towards equipping stakeholders in the communes of **Manga** and **Ténado** to manage their statistical systems independently.

Senegal

The KIX-SEEDS project activities in Senegal will be implemented by the Ecole Supérieure d'Economie Appliquée (ESEA), based in Dakar. As a vocational training school with faculty status, ESEA has been an integral part of Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD) since 2008. It offers a wide range of courses based on a teaching model that alternates between theory and practice, with field placements.

ESEA is also recognized as a center of excellence that

works closely with local authorities, refining intervention methods and empowering grassroots communities through support and self-promotion strategies. As part of the KIX-SEEDS project, ESEA will focus on two distinct settings: the rural commune of **Deali** in central Senegal and the urban commune of **Yoff** in Dakar. In both locations, ESEA will collaborate with education stakeholders to strengthen their capacity to collect, analyze, and use education data effectively, driving informed decision-making at all levels.

Expected Impact of the Project

The KIX-SEEDS project has a special focus on Gender, Equity and Inclusion (GEI). By integrating GEI into every layer of our data value chains, we aim to generate actionable insights that guide decision-making at all levels – from school planning to holistic learner outcomes. This project will enhance the capacity of education planners, data teams, teachers, and other key stakeholders at the subnational level, empowering them to effectively generate, analyze, and use data for informed decisions. These strengthened capabilities will continue to benefit the education data landscape long after the project ends.

To achieve this, we will conduct applied research to generate and mobilize evidence on scaling micro-level data systems. Our approach is built around a community- and context-specific GEI framework, with four key work packages to be implemented over the next two years:

- i. a scoping review and multi-stakeholder dialogues,
- ii. data integration to strengthen capacity and scale micro-data systems,

iii. data analysis to enhance data uptake and use, and

iv. monitoring, documentation, and advocacy for data-driven decision-making.

With these remarks, I'd like to close by saying, the vision for KIX-SEEDS is big, but we will not be able to achieve it without each one of you. I am genuinely excited to have you on this journey with us. I hope that in 2026, we will look back on our accomplishments with pride and gratitude.

Daniel Mtai-Mwanga

Senior Data Scientist - APHRC
KIX-SEEDS Project Manager



News

HISP-Uganda Onboarding Meeting

To officially mark the beginning of activities, KIX-SEEDS held its first onboarding meeting in Uganda from April 21 to May 3. The project team onboarded the Health Information Systems Program (HISP) as a local implementing partner in Uganda.

As part of the project's onboarding activities, APHRC's Daniel Mwanga, the Project Manager, and Eubert Espira, the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) lead, conducted various engagements, including

meetings with the HISP technical team, discussions with the Commissioner of Basic Education in Uganda, and visits to key officials such as the Principal Education Officer in Entebbe Municipality.

The Uganda onboarding meeting was the first among a series of visits to the 3 partner countries i.e Burkina Faso and Senegal.



Launch of the KIX-SEEDS Project

On May 9, 2024, the KIX-SEEDS project was officially launched in Nairobi. The event brought together representatives from the Institut Supérieur des Sciences de la Population (ISSP) in Burkina Faso and HISP Uganda. This launch provided a valuable opportunity for both implementing partners to connect and share ideas on effectively implementing the project in their respective countries.





Dakar Inception Meeting

From July 3-5, the project team held a three-day workshop in Dakar to finalize the onboarding of its local implementing partners and strategize on how to achieve the project's objectives. The meeting convened specialists from Institut Supérieur des Sciences de la Population (ISSP), Burkina Faso, Ecole Supérieure d'Economie Appliquée (ESEA), Senegal, and the Health Information Systems Program (HISP) Uganda.

The partners reviewed their work plans as different teams engaged in discussions on improving the implementation process in their countries.

The project team also conducted a stakeholder mapping exercise to guide the partners in identifying key stakeholders for maximum impact throughout the project cycle.

Tayib Fall from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) attended the meeting and emphasized the need to find ways to ensure sustainability long after the project ends in 2026. Cheikh Faye, APHRC's Head of West Africa Regional Office, also urged team members to work harmoniously to achieve quality education rooted in equality, equity, and inclusion.



Country Updates

A snapshot of what the local implementing partners have been up to:



Uganda

The team has successfully secured research ethical approvals from relevant bodies and obtained letters of support from both the central and local governments. They have also identified and onboarded key stakeholders across their sites.

Prosper Behumbiize, PhD

Director, Programs - HISP Uganda
In-Country Project Lead



Burkina Faso

For the project, two communes have been selected: Rural Commune (Manga) and Urban Commune (Bingo). The team is currently mobilizing and mapping participating entities and has received clearance from the Ministry of Education. An information-sharing workshop has been scheduled to officially onboard the identified entities.

Dr. Bassinga Hervé

Lecturer & Researcher - Higher Institute of Population Sciences (ISSP)
In-Country Project Lead



Senegal

The team has identified the two communes where they will implement the project. Deali, a rural commune in central Senegal and Yoff, a more urban setting in Dakar. The team has also identified stakeholders and is actively engaging with them to identify areas of convergence and how they can best implement the project collaboratively. Upcoming events include an orientation workshop with the Regional Development Agency (ARD) to present the project and seek support, field missions with the mayors of the selected communes, and recruitment of assistants.

Dr. Samba Ndiaye

Lecturer & Researcher - Graduate School of Applied Economics (ESEA) Université Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD)
In-Country Project Lead

Activity Updates

Rayyan AI Tool Training

A comprehensive training session was held to enhance our partners' ability to conduct scoping reviews. The session covered key topics such as scoping review methodologies, conducting systematic searches, and using the Rayyan AI tool. Participants from all Local Implementing Partners (LIPs) attended, including ESEA (Senegal), ISSP (Burkina Faso), HISP (Uganda), and APHRC (Nairobi and the West Africa Regional Office).

MEL Updates

A new results framework has been developed with input from the KIX-GPE MEL team. This framework, now shared with all local implementing partners,

outlines the project's indicators and goals across various categories: outputs, immediate and intermediate outcomes, ensuring alignment and coherence across our initiatives.



Policy Engagement & Communication

Stakeholder Engagements

The Higher Institute of Population Sciences Team Introduce the Project to Local Stakeholders in Manga and Bingo

On August 27 and 29, 2024, The Higher Institute of Population Sciences (ISSP) met with local stakeholders from the municipalities of Manga

and Bingo. These two meetings were an opportunity for the ISSP to present the project objectives, the collection tools and the digital platform currently being designed. The stakeholders praised the initiative and committed to fully supporting the implementation of the project in their respective municipalities.



Events

September 25 - 27, 2024

The KIX-SEEDS project participated in the Forum on [Internet Freedom in Africa](#) (FIFAfrica24) held in Dakar, Senegal. At this forum, APHRC aimed to showcase its projects on data governance and use in addressing development issues such as health and education. The forum provided an opportunity to present the KIX-SEEDS project and its expected outcomes. Organized annually since 2014, FIFAfrica paves the way for concerted efforts to advance data use and governance, among other objectives. Diama Diop Dia, Eubert Munywere, and Cheikhouna Diagne represented the KIX-SEEDS project.



Upcoming Event

Webinar: Effective Policy Engagement and Strategic Communication for Research Impact

 October 29, 2024



Nicholas Etyang
Policy Engagement
Manager - APHRC

Speaker



Alvin Kimani
Policy and Advocacy
Officer - APHRC

Speaker



Diama Diop Dia
Senior Communications
Officer - APHRC

Moderator



Chao Shete
Communications Officer
APHRC

Moderator

Research Unlocked: Tips for Effective Science Communications

Principles for Research Communication

- By Chao Shete

As a research-to-policy think-tank, the Center's priority is to ensure that research findings are accessible for public debate, policy decisions, and societal benefit. Our goal is to influence changes in thinking, behavior, or policy through our work, therefore, it is vital that we communicate our findings effectively and beyond our immediate circle of fellow specialists in our field.

To support this effort as a project, we are introducing a series of guidelines and principles on translating, disseminating, and maximizing the impact of research.

Throughout this newsletter series, you will discover various strategies for communicating your findings—even long after the KIX-SEEDS project concludes. This guide offers researchers insights on identifying their audience, engaging them effectively, and leveraging different communication methods.

By the end of this series, we hope you will be able to:

- Recognize the importance of stakeholder engagement.
- Utilize various communication techniques tailored to your audience.
- Develop messages that resonate with your target audience.

What Makes Communication Effective?

To communicate research effectively, here are five guiding principles:

- 1. Clarity:** Make your message easy to understand. This is especially important when there is a lot of complexity surrounding your topic. Ensure that your target group has a correct understanding of the relevant facts about both the results and the underlying research.

- 2. Brevity:** Often you will have limited time to make your point. It is important that you are quick and concise to avoid losing the attention of your audience with lengthy explanations.

- 3. Context:** Always consider relevance. Why should your audience care about your findings? Make your message fit within their context, showing how it relates to their interests or needs. Avoid sensationalizing/communicating alarming messages.

- 4. Impact:** You want your message to be meaningful and memorable. How can you cut through the noise and ensure that your audience understands the weight and/or significance of your message?

- 5. Value:** The ultimate goal is for our research to guide policy decisions. So how do we frame our findings to add value to the decision-making process? When other options are available, your message must be compelling enough to make decision-makers choose your recommendations.

While all five principles should be integrated into your communication efforts, you may need to emphasize certain aspects depending on your audience. For example, senior government officials may prioritize brevity, while local community leaders might need more context.

Communication is an ongoing process, so continually evaluate and refine your approach to maximize impact. The Policy Engagement and Communications team will work to ensure that KIX-SEEDS findings remain visible and impactful. However, we encourage researchers and partners to uphold these principles when sharing KIX-SEEDS work independently.





KIX-SEEDS

Strengthening and Enhancing
Education Data Systems

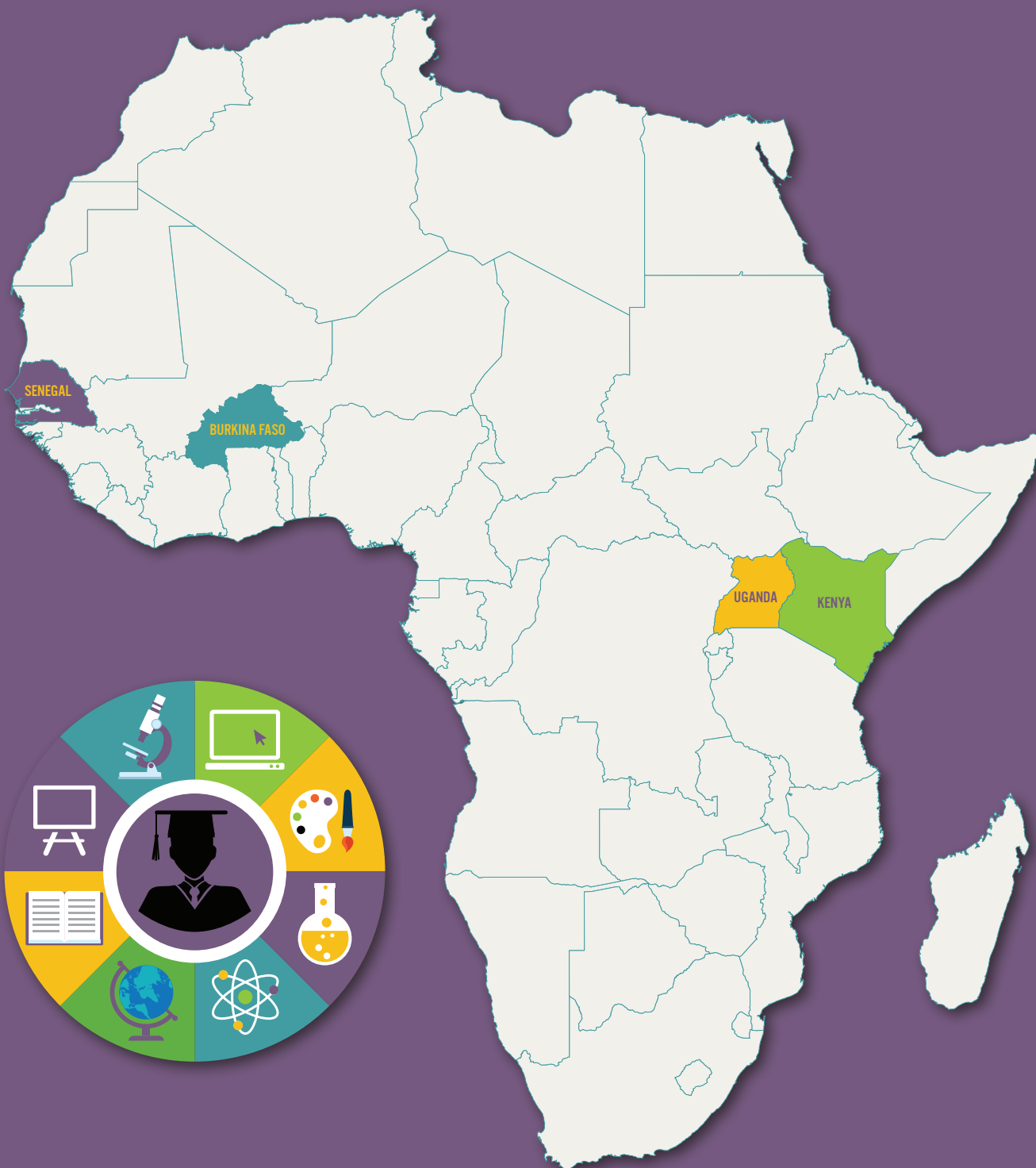


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