





September 2022 Issue

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Cover Photo: Joe Ogutu - Chairman Safaricom Foundation, Kawira Gikambi - Official Ministry of Education and Virginia Ngindiru - Director of Programs, Zizi Afrique Foundation and other dignitaries pose for a photo during the ILD Celebrations.



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Editorial

We are thankful. Zizi Afrique Foundation turned five on August 1st, and Kenya inaugurated the 5th president, His Excellency Dr. William Ruto on September 13th. Owing to the August 9th elections, business was sluggish this quarter. Many of our staff took time off to rest. Nevertheless, we still achieved a lot, driven by resilience and our commitment to supporting post-COVID recovery of education.

In his maiden speech at the inauguration, the President demonstrated commitment to education, reiterating aspects of the Kenya Kwanza (Kenya First) party manifesto. Rather than moving into it right-away, he adopted a safe, participatory approach. True to his promise, the President on 29th September appointed a 42-member Presidential Working Party on Education Reform, to consult the public and use evidence to advice on specified aspects of reform. The Working Party should submit a report within six months and brief the President every two months. Among the appointed members is our board member, Purity Mbabu.

As the Working Party starts to work, we have also started. We view this as a grand opportunity to use evidence to inform the education agenda. Our response is the convening of the Big Coalition for Education Reform. Co-chaired by the Regional Education Learning Initiative (RELI) and Elimu Yetu Coalition, the aim is to revitalize and amplify the voice of civil society in Kenya to engage with and support an education reform for all children and youth. We have unlocked our convening and field leadership power, to pursue collective voice and impact.

It this third edition of the Zizi Impact, we summarize the achievements of Zizi Afrique, and tell you where we were, what we did and what we achieved. Hope you enjoy.

- Faith Mukiria & John Mugo

Evidence Generation and Learning

Producing evidence

Over 46,000 adolescents (13-17 years) have been assessed by the Assessment of Life Skills and Values in East Africa (ALiVE). This ground-up assessment presents the largest, household-based assessment of 21st Century skills on the continent, reaching more than 35,000 households in over 100 districts across Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. An initiative of the Values and Life Skills Thematic Cluster of RELI, ALiVE was conducted by teachers, teacher-trainees and community-based assessors. Read more about this approach [here](#)

Together with PAL Network we conducted a second pilot of the Early Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (ELANA) in Makeni. The pilot took the form of an actual assessment where 45 enumeration areas were sampled by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, with training of participants, actual enumeration area mapping, household listing and household sampling being conducted. The final step to tool finalization is a pre-test scheduled for later this year.

Sharing evidence

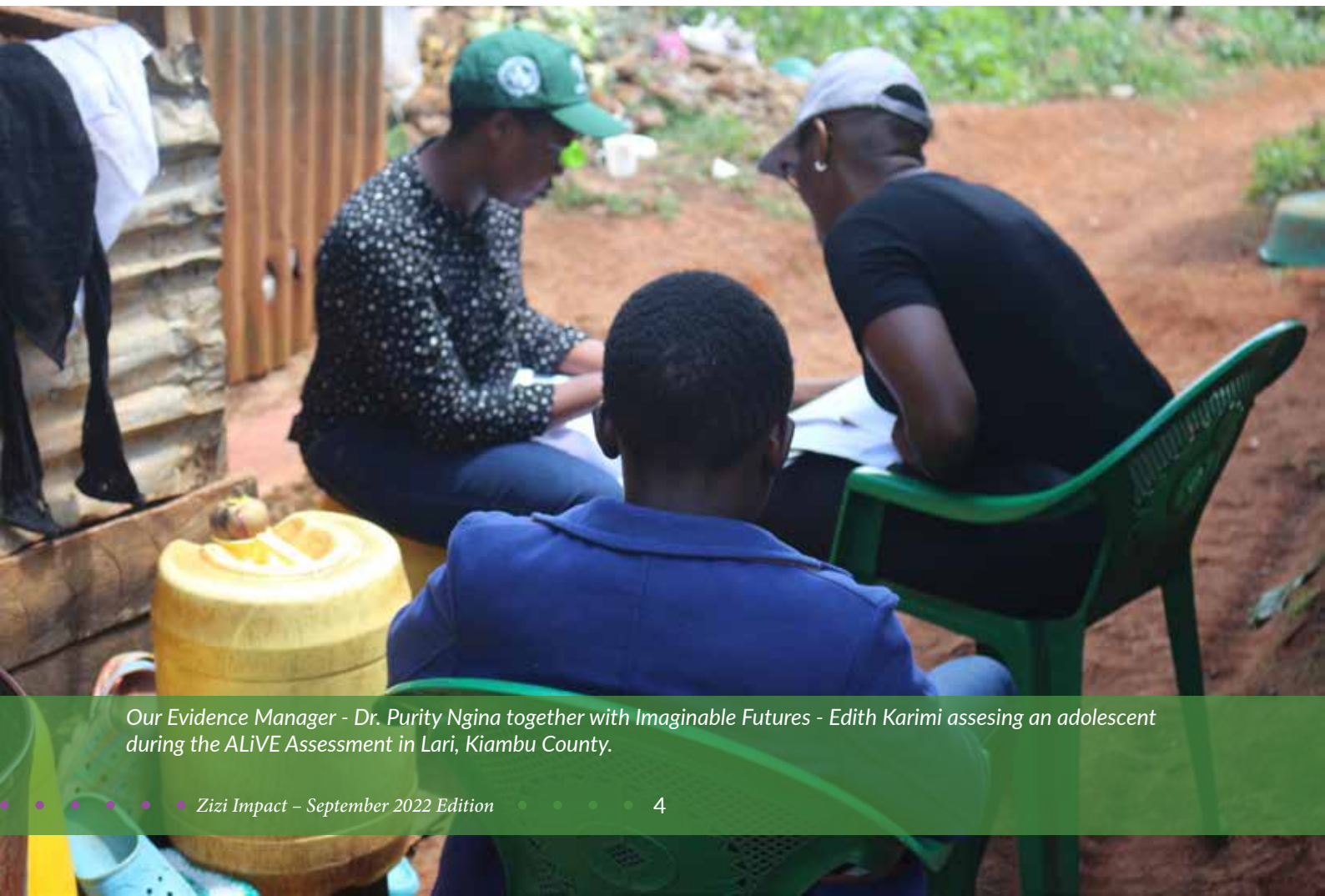
A total of 12 abstracts and paper submissions were made in the quarter, to various conferences among them BAICE, Kenyatta University and the Kenya Journal of TVET.

[Four reports](#) were finalized from the TVET data mapping initiative with the Ministry of Education, and popular versions developed and circulated.

We attended the Association of Educational Assessments in Africa (AEAA) conference in Zambia and connected with the large community of examination and assessment councils on the continent.

ALiVE members in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania together with the 47 item writers have embarked on a learning journey guided by Oxford MeasurED. The journey will document, consolidate and synthesize learnings to inform ALiVE's expansion to focus on learners aged 6-12 years (2023-2025).

We also had 5 media interviews



Our Evidence Manager - Dr. Purity Ngina together with Imaginable Futures - Edith Karimi assessing an adolescent during the ALiVE Assessment in Lari, Kiambu County.

Advocacy for policy change and implementation

Our Executive Director together with other senior education experts from Kenya and Pakistan participated in a weeklong immersion trip in Brazil aimed at promoting and exchanging experiences and current initiatives that can inspire education reforms in their countries. This initiative called the South-South Initiative and features collaboration among 7 key institutions in Kenya, UK, Brazil and Pakistan. [Read more...](#)

We celebrated the International Literacy Day on 8th September by hosting a policy forum on foundational literacy. During the meeting the Accelerated Learning Program report was shared alongside the RELI evidence brief. Over 90 participants graced the occasion, with representation from the Ministry, including, office of the Principal Secretary, Directorate of teacher education, Directorate of policy, partnerships and East

African Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development, and the National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK). [Watch the video here](#)

We participated in a policy development workshop on 12th to 14th September and shared Foundational Literacy and Numeracy insights generated through the [Accelerated Learning Program](#). The workshop also developed the draft zero guidelines for accelerated education and learning. The curriculum review for TVET Trainers organized by the Kenya Technical Trainers Institute was postponed.

Co-chaired by RELI and Elimu Yetu Coalition, the Big Coalition for Education Reform is under formation, with other key sector players. This coalition will achieve three outcomes – collate evidence for publication and sharing, use evidence to inform public debate,



Joe Ogutu - Chairman Safaricom Foundation, Kawira Gikambi - Official Ministry of Education and Virginia Ngindiru - Director of Programs, Zizi Afrique Foundation pose for a photo during the ILD Celebrations.

and directly engage with leaders and influencers for education reform. In the immediate term, the coalition will engage with the presidential working party on education reform, and work with the media to run public conversations and raise awareness on the need for reform.

Innovation for Improved Practice

Since 2020, we have been working with Safaricom Foundation to provide TVET scholarships to 1,027 most deserving youth. Presently, 45 youth have entered the labour market, 176 have completed their training and 358 are on attachment to complement the school-based training.

On 15th July we combined efforts with TVET Authority, World Skills Kenya and other stakeholders to celebrate the World Skills Day. 2,211 students (1341 M and 870F) were engaged in a TVET e-marathon with the goal of enabling them to share stories about the skills they are gaining in TVET. The event saw the best male and female students awarded with laptops while the second and third categories received a mobile phone. The institution that mobilized most of their students will receive a bull.

In partnership with PAL Network, we started planning for the implementation of the My Village project in Kenya, with a proof of concept in Kirinyaga county. The project aims to create a movement where communities build agency to support the learning of

their children. For 12 days, the program team camped in one of the villages in Kirinyaga for a Do It Yourself (DIY). Insights from this will shape the roll out in 3 counties (Bungoma, Kilifi and Kitui).

For the past 5 years, we have been implementing a youth program with a focus on Whole Youth Development (WYD). An ideation session was hosted by Narok Vocational Training Centre, to start the construction of a WYD model for TVET in Kenya.

After a series of 12 national and regional meetings, a group of 23 members successfully drafted the first version of the Parental Engagement and Empowerment (PE&E) framework. The framework which has identified Communication, Collaboration, Capacity Sharing and Community Resources will go a long way to guide the design, implementation and evaluation of PE&E initiatives.

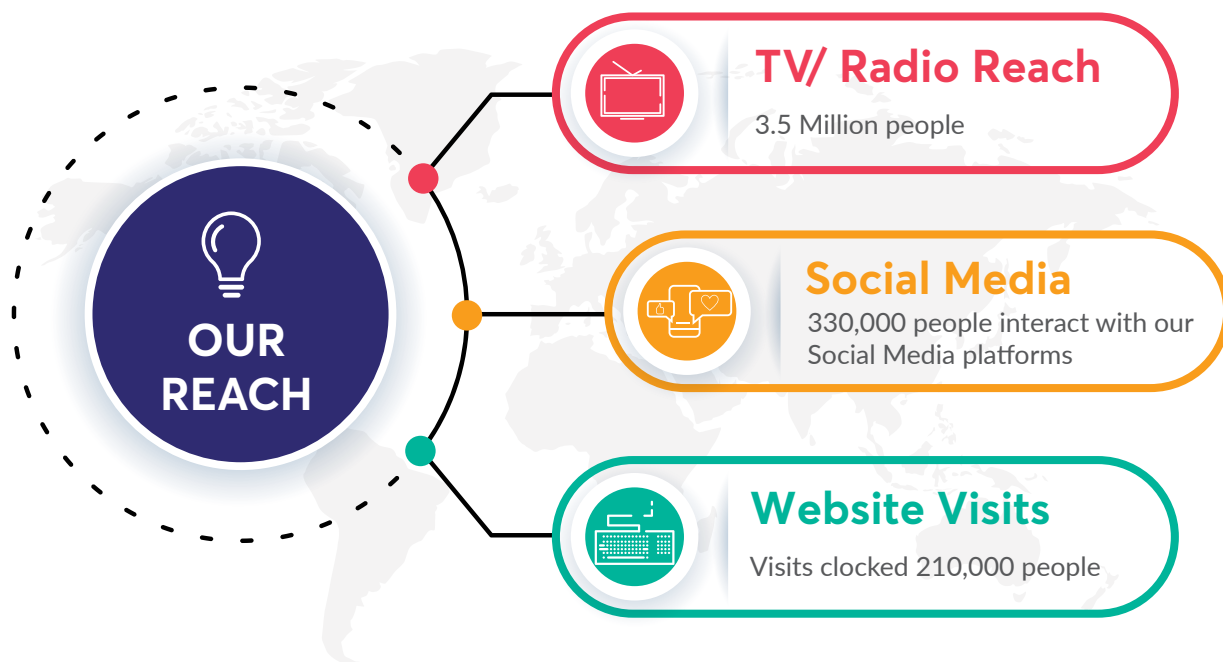
On 31st August we co-hosted a Learnshop with Africa Voices Dialogue on Parental Engagement and Empowerment. In this first Learnshop, we identified different types of parental engagement, revisited the parent-student-school relationships and engaged in conversations about the different strategies of parental engagement and how they impact learners, families and communities in Africa.

Together with Toolkit iSkills we organized an ICT instructors training session on the 23rd to 25th August 2022 where 46 instructors from 35 TVET partner institutions were trained.



Zizi Afrique Foundation and Imaginable Futures team members during debrief session after assessment in Lari, Kiambu County.

Our Reach



Dr. John Mugo - Executive Director, Zizi Afrique Foundation together with Amy Klement - CEO Imaginable Futures talk to a parent during the ALiVE Assessment in Iari, Kiambu County.

Within the Zizi walls

John Mugo, Zizi's Executive Director among the top 10 finalists nominated for the Africa Education Medal. The award went to Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, Vice Chancellor of the University of Cape Town.

4th
August

Zizi Afrique is recognized as a key stakeholder that has been instrumental in the consultation process in the National Conference of Transforming Education

26th
August

Zizi Afrique family is growing. The Director of Research and communications Assistant reported to work alongside two interns ALiVE assessment completed in all three countries, reaching 46,000+ Adolescents and 35,000+ parents.

1st
September

Walter Odondi elected Vice chairperson of the International Vocational Education and Training Association (IVETA)

9th
September

Second edition of the Sara Ruto Cup tournament held to raise funds for the Tenda Wema project. The initiative is motivated by Ubuntu's call for all kids to go to school and learn.

24th
September

Hosted Amy Klement (CEO) and the Africa team of Imaginable Futures, putting their hands on the ALiVE tool.

25th
September

Purity Mbabu appointed by the President to the Working Party on Education Reform.

29th
September

New staff members and promotion



Maurice Mutisya
Director of Research
reported on September 7th



Margaret Gathigi
Communications Assistant,
reported September 1st.



Virginia Ngindiru
Rose to Director of Programs,
starting September 1st

Poetry Corner

A conspiracy of kindness

By John Mugo

Someone tell Fernando, tell Anna, tell Rachel, tell
Carla, tell Renee:

I will not land back in Nairobi before I say:
It was all kindness, a conspiracy of kindness.
Facilitation to get visas, all kindness
Countless hours in the air, all kindness
Arrival and reception in Sao Paulo, all kindness
Convergence of strangers at WZ hotel, all kindness
Receiving cards with uniformed password, all kindness
Getting to know and work with each other, all kindness
Visit to Afro Brasil museum and the park, all kindness
Long trip to Sobral, all kindness
Lunch by the Atlantic in Fortaleza, all kindness
Night arrival at elementary school, all kindness
Cheeky greeting from happy children, all kindness
Inspiration by the headteachers of Sobral, all kindness
Hammock swings at Lemann Centre, all kindness
Protocol-less session with reformist politicians, all
kindness
Dancing our hearts out over dinner, all kindness
Receiving gifts and hugs in closed circle, all kindness
Bidding goodbye to newfound friends, all kindness.

Now mid air, our hearts strongly bound, gone but not
forever
To take inspiration home, gone but not forever

To immortalize Sobral through action, gone but not
forever

To inspire those left behind, gone but not forever
To make foundational learning reality, gone but not
forever

To regularize meet-ups, gone but not forever
To connect with each other monthly, gone but not
forever

So will it take each of us in this new call to education
If you don't sense it in you, education not for you
If you believe in it, you cannot give up
Nothing less than a 100 percent
If any child is left behind, then yours.

Now gone to the world, to believe and make the
difference

Fuelled by this conspiracy of kindness.



ALiVE team members take part in a learning workshop facilitated by Oxford MeasURED at Strathmore University



The Zizi Afrique team bid farewell to four interns (in Maasai shukas) after serving the organization for six months.



30 senior educational leaders from Kenya and Pakistan at an immersion trip in Brazil courtesy of the south to south fellowship



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