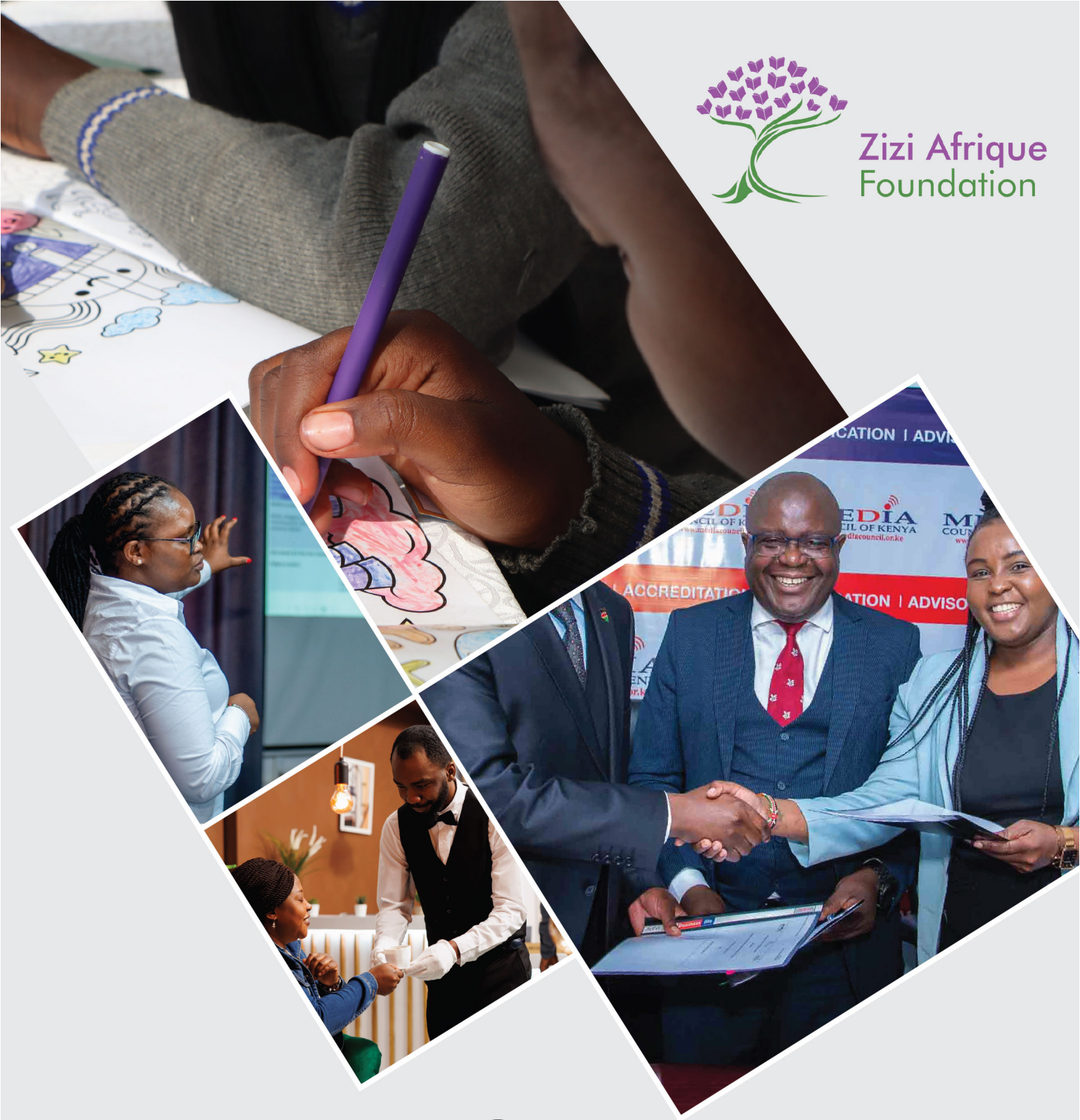




Zizi Afrique
Foundation



ZIZI IMPACT

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Greetings from Zizi!

The last quarter was all about Evidence in Action. Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF) continued to cement its role as a trusted technical partner in curriculum, assessment, and education policy reforms across Kenya, Uganda, and Zanzibar.

ZAF's work also continues to catalyse systemic shifts by embedding numeracy and life skills into teacher training and parental engagement, aligning education with labour market needs and fostering a culture of evidence-informed practice across five countries.

We also achieved key milestones that reflect a growing government ownership and signal lasting sustainability beyond ZAF's direct involvement in interventions.

Let us dive into the highlights of the quarter together!

Happy reading

Communications Team



East Africa Makes Progress in Anchoring Skills and Values in Curriculum and Assessment Systems

Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF) continued to support education systems to advance curriculum and assessment reforms across East Africa, with Kenya, Uganda, and Zanzibar taking key steps to integrate life skills into their education systems.

In Uganda, through our partners, [Uwezo Uganda](#) and the [Luigi Guisani Foundation](#), we collaborated with the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) to break down seven core life skills and embed them in the draft primary curricula. Approximately 40% of the panellists were women, strengthening gender representation in curricula reforms. The drafts are now being refined to demonstrate how skills such as problem-solving and teamwork can be taught in a step-by-step manner.

In Kenya, we partnered with the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) to conduct the Values-based Education (VbE) baseline for Grades 4–6 (including learners with special needs) and prepared tools for midline and endline reporting ahead of a national rollout in January 2026. In Tanzania, our partner, the [Milele Zanzibar Foundation](#) (MZf), supported life skills' integration within Zanzibar's Grade 3 national assessment, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT), the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE), and the Zanzibar Institute of Education (ZIE).

At the continental level, ZAF participated in the 41st Annual Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) Conference held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from August 25th to 29th, 2025, at the Skylight Hotel. Hosted by the [Ethiopian Educational Assessment and Examinations Service \(EAES\)](#), the event brought together over 400 international delegates to discuss advancements in educational assessment, with a focus on the “[Common Continental Assessment Framework](#)”.

Cross-Continent Learning Leads to a Renewed Commitment to Strengthen Foundational Learning

The Ministry of Education, in partnership with its agencies, Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF), and partners, embarked on a landmark process to shape Kenya's 10-year foundational numeracy (FN) agenda. Through four co-design workshops, participants from government, universities, and civil society identified four priority areas: teacher capacity and pedagogy, inclusive learning environments and materials, data and accountability systems, and policy alignment. Various universities also pledged to conduct further research and convene learning events to sustain the effort.



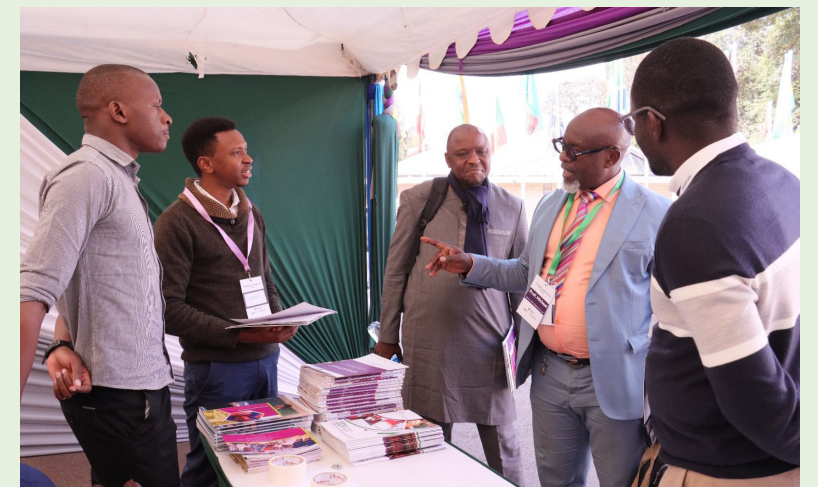
Complementing this work, a global learning exchange to Brazil exposed Kenyan policymakers and educators to best practices in foundational learning. The delegation — comprising Ministry of Education (MoE) officials, Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEa) trainers, and teacher trainers — returned with renewed commitment to teacher leadership, child-centred pedagogy, and systemic accountability. Together, these initiatives signal Kenya's strong commitment to equipping every learner with the foundational numeracy skills needed for lifelong success.

Turning Evidence into Action: How Error Analysis Work Continues to Inspire Action and Data Use in Kenya

The 2025 [Error Analysis Report](#), produced through collaboration with the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEa), continues to inspire action across Kenya's education ecosystem, offering critical insights into learners' misconceptions and teaching gaps. At high-level forums, including the **USIU-Africa Symposium on Foundational Learning** and **CEMASTEa's STEMtastic Adventures Africa Symposium**, educators experienced error analysis in action through a live mathematics session with Grade 2 learners.



The session reinforced the importance of reflective teaching, addressing individual learner needs, and designing responsive lesson plans. With CEMASTEa now adopting error analysis as a core research project and committing to scale it nationally, the approach is taking root in Kenya's education system. In addition, Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF) convened numeracy champions meeting at the Thogoto Teachers Training College to further deepen teacher educators' confidence in adapting monitoring tools and teaching strategies, with one educator noting. As one of the Tutors noted “This exercise has enabled me to think beyond the tools we get, which in a way limit our innovativeness. We should endeavour to have mind-opening platforms like this to expand our approach and scale.” This demonstrates that change is moving from exposure to sustained pedagogical practice within TTC systems.



Five Counties Commit to Evidence-based Decision-making in Foundational Learning in Kenya



Underscoring Zizi Afrique Foundation's (ZAF's) commitment to scaling the Foundational Learning initiative, ZAF worked on deepening data use at the county level by sharing findings at the 2025 Devolution Conference in Homa Bay County resulting in Five counties (Kisumu, Marsabit, Kajiado, Nairobi and Kirinyanga) adopting a **co-created Foundational Learning (FL) Data Dashboard**, streamlining data collection and reducing duplication, helping education officers make faster, evidence-informed decisions. Meanwhile, the **Education Evidence for Action (EE4A)** platform continues to connect researchers, policymakers, and practitioners, influencing national dialogue on education research funding and teacher training. Evidence, once again, is proving to be a powerful driver of system-wide reform.

Supporting the System to Reform Education Quality Assurance and Standards in Kenya

In Kenya, ZAF collaborated with the government and other partners to produce quality assurance instruments for schools. Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF) collaborated with the Directorate of Quality Assurance and Standards to revise the National Education Quality Assurance Standards Framework (NEQASF), resulting in the production of a Quality Assurance and Standards (QAS) handbook, Institutional-Based Quality Assurance (IBQA) guidelines, and tools that embed the assessment of values and competencies into inspection and school improvement cycles. The framework has been shared with key stakeholders for input and finalisation in the coming days. Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF) also entered into discussions with the Directorate of Quality Assurance and Standards in Kenya to jointly synthesise class observation data and publicise an annual education quality report

Co-creating the National Occupational Standards for the Hospitality Industry in Kenya

Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF), in collaboration with the National Sector Skills Committee Secretariat under the Ministry of Labour, is facilitating the co-creation of national occupational standards for the Food and Beverage sub-sector of the Hospitality and Tourism industry. Five sub-sectors were formally adopted (Food and Beverage, Accommodation and Conferencing, Entertainment and Recreation, Tourism and Travel, and other county-specific sub-sectors). For Food and Beverage alone, 58 occupational standards were mapped, providing an evidence-based foundation for training policies. The process was informed by multiple rounds of employer surveys in Mombasa and global benchmarks (International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Kenya Standard Industrial Classification (KeSIC), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Tourism).



Parents as Partners: A New Movement of Parents Promoting Learning across East Africa

Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF) is strengthening the role of parents and communities in education, transforming them from passive participants into active co-educators across Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Through its Parental Engagement Initiative, Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF) has partnered with the Ministry of Education, Teachers Service Commission, and KEPSHA to embed parental voice into school governance. Co-created toolkits have already reached over 4,000 parents and Board of Management members (1,328 M, 2,672 F, 0 I) across 84 schools, strengthening dialogue and collaboration between parents, teachers, and school leaders.

Across East Africa, a 10-week Parental and Community Engagement Campaign further deepened this movement, equipping over 1,300 parents (432 M, 868 F, 0 I) and 2,300 learners (764 M, 1,536 F, 0 I) with life skills and practical strategies to support learning at home. In Bungoma County, these efforts inspired an MoU between ZAF and the National Parents Association, ensuring parental participation becomes a sustained feature of school governance and advocacy.

Champions like **Catherine Sifuma**, a community leader in Bungoma, are bringing this vision to life. After receiving training on parental empowerment and Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) engagement, Catherine now mobilises her community to strengthen home-school partnerships. As she puts it,



“I am now confident and ready to support my community in engaging effectively with schools for better learning outcomes”
Catherine Sifuma-Community Leader

Together, these efforts are building a movement of empowered parents and communities, actively co-shaping education systems to deliver better learning and wellbeing for every child.

Strategic Partnerships Leads Four County Governments to Commit to Strengthened ECD Planning and Resourcing



Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF) has strengthened its collaboration with county governments to integrate Early Childhood Development (ECD) priorities in county plans and structures. At the continental level, Zizi sustained its leadership in strengthening data use for education transformation.

Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF) convened the Departments of Education in Siaya, Mombasa, and Samburu, co-creating practicable strategies to translate findings from ZAF’s recent political economy analysis of ECD into actionable reforms. In Mombasa, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Education, Dr. Mbwarali Kame, underscored Zizi’s pivotal role:

“We are ready to work with Zizi Afrique, and what we have done so far with you will go down in history, because we have all added value to the education of young children. Your emphasis and focus on the policy of re-entry promotes the rights of exclusive breastfeeding, and we are ensuring childcare facilities to give children a second chance.”
Dr. Mbwarali Kame- Mombasa County Executive Committee Member (CECM)

This testimonial highlights how Zizi’s advocacy and evidence are shaping county-level priorities, ensuring that childcare facilities, re-entry policies, and child rights protections are not only recognised but also embedded within county development plans.

Strengthening Africa's Education Evidence Ecosystem to Entrench Data-Driven Decision-Making

In partnership with [EBASE Africa](#) (Cameroon) and the [University of Malawi](#), ZAF is connecting data generators with data users across Kenya, Cameroon, and Malawi. Through joint evidence generation and dissemination, these partnerships are expanding the culture of data use, democratising access, and ensuring that evidence influences decisions at local and regional levels. Together, these partnerships demonstrate Zizi Afrique's role as both a systems convener and a regional connector, working hand in hand with governments and universities to ensure evidence moves from research to policy to practice.

Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF) also brought together a vibrant regional research community — 15 partner organisations, six government agencies, UNICEF, [ESSA](#), RELI Africa, and leading universities — to advance a shared vision for **evidence-driven education reform**. Through initiatives like the **ALIVE Academy** and a **formative learning framework** piloted in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, ZAF is strengthening local ownership of assessment and learning. Its global thought leadership continues to shine, with the ALIVE book surpassing **40,000 downloads worldwide**.

In Kenya, Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF) and **KNEC** established a **Resource Centre for Evidence Synthesis**, embedding evidence use within national systems. At the county level, collaboration with education directors in five counties led to the creation of a **harmonised data dashboard**, streamlining data collection and reducing administrative burdens, which one director described as **"Data made easier and more efficient."**



ZAF also co-led the 6th [Education Evidence for Action \(EE4A\)](#) Conference, co-hosted with the **Education Deans Forum-Kenya**, bringing together over **300 policymakers, practitioners, and academics** to reimagine teacher education under the Competency-Based Curriculum. The event, graced by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and keynote speaker Prof. Kwame Akyeampong, challenged universities to anchor teacher training in evidence and practice, marking another milestone in shaping the future of foundational learning in East Africa.

Contributing to Global Conversations on Partnerships at the UKFIET 2025 Conference

Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF) strengthened its global visibility and thought leadership by participating in the [UKFIET Conference 2025](#) under the theme "Mobilising knowledge, partnerships, and innovations for sustainable development through education and training." Through two presentations, Zizi Afrique Fondation (ZAF) showcased its work on parental empowerment and engagement as well as lessons from the ALIVE initiative on 21st-century skills and distributed leadership. These contributions advanced knowledge exchange, highlighted effective regional practices, and positioned ZAF as a key player in shaping collaborative approaches to education in East Africa and beyond. Explore the [conference programme](#) here.

A new Partnership to Increase and improve Education Reporting in Kenya



Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF), [RELI Africa](#), and the Media Council of Kenya signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to increase and improve education reporting through journalist story grants, revival of education desks in newsrooms, and an annual award for education reporting that elevates life skills issues in public discourse. This ensures consistent visibility of life skills education in national narratives. The first capacity-building workshop was conducted to empower over 25 Journalists from national and local media across Kenya with skills to report on education. Growing interest was immediately evident, with over 270 story ideas submitted to the media council for journalists seeking grants for their stories. ZAF also entered [into an understanding](#) with the Royal Media Services (RMS), the leading media house in Kenya, to advance public conversations on education through town hall discussions.

Leveraging the Kenya Music Festivals as a platform for awareness and practicing of CBE Values

The Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) and Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF) embarked on a transformative, child-centred advocacy campaign during the regional Kenya Music Festivals across four regions (Nairobi, Central, Nyanza and Western) and the national festivals, reaching directly over 200,000 learners, teachers and parents with accurate information on CBE values. The initiative, rooted in the principles of Competency-Based Education (CBE), focused on advancing learner awareness, understanding and lived experiences of eight core values under CBE namely: love, respect, unity, patriotism, social justice, responsibility, integrity, and peace.



Introducing HERI-Africa: A new Initiative to Increase African-led Education Research



Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF) is driving a new initiative aimed at increasing Africa-led Education Research and institutionalising research culture and positioning education research as a lever for systemic reform across Africa through the Harnessing Education Research for Impact in Africa (HERI-A) programme. ZAF has secured endorsements and support from high-level government officials, including Kenya's Principal Secretaries for Higher Education, Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, and Science, Research & Innovation, Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, who pledged to co-chair the HERI-A steering committee and called for breaking silos in research. These endorsements not only anchor Zizi Afrique Foundation's (ZAF's) leadership but also signal government ownership and readiness to integrate research outputs into national education priorities.



Situating Gender Transformation at the Heart of Education Reform

Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF) is ensuring that gender equality is not treated as an add-on, but as a core principle driving education reform across East Africa. From programme design and implementation to data use and capacity building, a **gender lens** now cuts across all ZAF's work in foundational learning, life skills, and skills development. These efforts are also reflected internally. Gender practices are now part of all-staff sessions and will soon be integrated into Zizi Afrique Foundation's (ZAF's) **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)** framework, set for rollout in October 2025.

To deepen thought leadership in this space, Zizi Afrique Foundation (ZAF) is supporting the **Gender in Education Research Fellowship** led by KIPPR. The fellowship has identified seven critical training areas—from gender-responsive teaching to gender and decolonisation—helping to build a new generation of researchers and practitioners who will champion **gender-transformative education systems** for years to come.



We really appreciate Zizi Afrique's Gender Fellowship for providing us with a formal platform to learn and share on matters gender. The fellowship is providing me and my organization with an opportunity to strengthen individual and institutional capacities to champion gender equity and social inclusion

Dr. Wakiaga - APHRC



This fellowship will help us make a case for gender and put more emphasis on why we need to come out strongly and advocate for gender equality. We look forward to this fellowship.

Dr. Purity Ngina - CEO NGE



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