

gesci  
Founded by UN ICT Task Force



# Year in Review

2024

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## GESCI END YEAR UPDATE: 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

### Preface

As 2024 comes to a close, we unavoidably recall so many unsettling and disruptive world events that took place throughout the year. As educationalists, we all remain deeply concerned about the millions of children and young people whose educational development has ceased or has been disrupted throughout the year.

I'm sure that our readers are concerned about several key issues needing support and resolution such as the decreasing levels of literacy and numeracy combined with a growing need for many more teachers. The use and incorporation of digital technologies will provide valuable assistance in helping to address these two concerns. Solutions need to be found and implemented to address youth unemployment and the significant role that education and training reform can play in conjunction with employment agencies and business in job creation. These are critical issues to which donors and development agencies can make very worthwhile and significant interventions and many are doing so already. However, much more is needed.

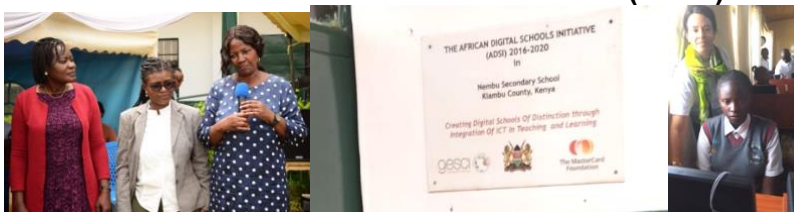
In this edition of the GESCI update, we share highlights of our work in 2024.

GESCI is ready to collaborate in the development of innovative and potentially scalable initiatives to help alleviate these and other issues in 2025 and beyond. I wish all our readers a wonderful Christmas, well deserved, I'm sure. I also wish you all a happy, successful and healthy New Year.

**Jerome Morrissey,**  
Chief Executive Officer

## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

### AFRICAN DIGITAL SCHOOLS INITIATIVE (ADSI) SPOTLIGHT



Queen of Peace Nembu an ADSI School in Kiambu County, Kenya launched an eLearning Centre with support from the Thika Alumni Trust. This is one of the 80 secondary schools in Kenya that benefited from the Digital Schools of Distinction program which saw over 1000 teachers trained on ICT integration in teaching and learning. The eLearning Centre is equipped with computers where learning materials are loaded from various online platforms and learners can access them easily.

### EDTECH EAST AFRICA COLLABORATION ON FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING

EdTech East Africa partnered with GESCI to enhance collaboration on foundational learning mechanisms. GESCI shared resources developed by teachers for students on an online. GESCI also contributed to the development of guidelines for

effectively assessing Edtech initiatives that prepare the youth for the job market. It was a brainstorming session on creating a self-evaluation framework for tech-enabled skilling programs. The discussion aimed to address: In-demand skills needed to enter and thrive in today's workforce, how well do tech-enabled programs align with these market requirements and strategies to bridge gaps between program offerings and workforce needs. The sessions examined how technology-facilitated training programs can better prepare individuals with the technical and interpersonal skills required by employers, ensuring a smoother transition from education to employment. The organizations represented were; GESCI, Generation Kenya, NairoBits Trust, Tustawi and Nexford University.

## **CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS IN ZANZIBAR**



GESCI organised a capacity enhancement workshop for education stakeholders in Zanzibar drawn from the ministry of Education and vocational training, Zanzibar Examination Council, Zanzibar Institute of Education and Civil Society Organisations. Dr.Mwanahamisi, Deputy Principal Secretary Academics Ministry of attended the opening session. In her remarks, she mentioned that with ongoing education reforms, it is very critical for policy makers to understand issues of assessments. She reiterated the need to take assessments seriously as teachers will also understand that doing it the right way plays a key role in the learner's life while in school and out of school. She was pleased with the fact that the target group for the training included curriculum experts, ministry officials in primary, secondary school and special education units as well as actors in the private sector. Participants were taken through training on learning assessments (what are they and how are they done), life skills to be assessed and dissemination of findings from various assessment studies.

## **IHE DELFT GLOBAL SANITATION GRADUATE SCHOOL (GSGS) REGIONAL HUBS IN AFRICA**



GESCI partnered with DASRA India, IHE DELFT Institute of Water and Sanitation under the auspices of UNESCO to conduct co-creation workshops for universities in anglophone and francophone Africa on uptake of modules on sanitation education. These workshops aimed at ensuring the Regional Hubs have laid strategies on how they will function to support the universities and alumni of GSGS in the region as well advocacy on what the Hubs are doing.

### **GESCI AT THE 3RD GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION KNOWLEDGE INNOVATION EXCHANGE -GPE KIX SYMPOSIUM**



GESCI participated in this symposium where our CEO Jerome Morrissey presented at the High Level panel session. The symposium, attended by over 250 representatives of Ministries for Education and the Professional Educational Research Community. Other significant research themes dealt with the valuable incorporation of digital technologies right across the curriculum. Conclusions reached also demonstrated the learning gain to be achieved using assistive technologies in Special Needs (SEN) environments. Several presenters referred to the need for greater incorporation and a raised official status for local languages. The overall learning experience of African children was seen as diminished when exclusive use of colonial languages prevailed. Operational and technical support for this symposium was provided by GESCI in collaboration with the African Union, IPED and IDRC ( GPE KIX Africa Hub).

### **EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY INAUGURAL REGIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**





GESCI JOINED partners at the Inaugural East African Community (EAC) Education Conference. The conference is organised by EAC – in partnership with the Regional Education Learning Initiative Africa (RELI-Africa), the People’s Action for Learning (PAL) Network, the African Curriculum Association (ACA) and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA). The EAC Regional conference is, therefore, a call for joint action and for “restlessness in reflecting on learning as a pressing social justice issue in the region”. Rather than be-labour challenges, the conference adopts a solutions-focus, sharing innovations and evidence on what has worked in our context, with a strong call to commit for our children.

The conference brought together a cross-section of participants from the 8 Partner States of the EAC as well as select participants from other African countries. The target audience will be high-level officials (Ministers or Principal Secretaries), policymakers (curriculum officers, ministry officials, parliamentarians), teachers, students, development partners, Civil society organisations, and research/academic institutions.

## **REGIONAL EDUCATION LEARNING INITIATIVE-RELI AFRICA REGIONAL CONVENING IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA**



We joined other members of the Regional Education Learning Initiative-RELI Africa network from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania at the regional convening seeking to strengthen collaborations among civil society organizations and fostering collective impact in the regions they operate.

### **GPE GRANTEES IN TANZANIA MEETING**

We joined other Global Partnership for Education Knowledge Innovation Exchange - GPE KIX grantees in Tanzania to share on the progress of the Furthering Impact Adapting and the effective embedding of assessment into Policy and Learning (ADAPT) – Zanzibar through capacity building of ministry of education officials and further dissemination of findings from the Adapting assessment into policy and learning (ADAPT) project

### **AFTRA – IICBA KIX WEBINAR ON TEACHER EMPOWERMENT**

We were part of the following webinars:

1. The influence of school leadership and governance on teachers’ mental health and wellbeing in Africa,” will be next Thursday, 6th June 2024, from 15:00-17:00 hrs (East Africa Time, UTC +3) See below for your calculated time zone.
2. Quality Assurance in Teacher Education in sub-Saharan Africa: Enhancing the Quality of Teacher Training Programs for a Competent Teaching Workforce in Africa,”

### 3. Social Dialogues for Teachers: Amplifying the Voice of the Teacher to inform and achieve quality educational reforms in Africa

## IN THE MEDIA

### EdtTech Gumzo

The conversation on holistic learning in East Africa.

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/71KQ4iXqQR93WEKF31P2sW?si=p9rmGVv6TX-kh3ae16llxA>

### Emerging Issues Conversations in Kenya



### Furthering Impact Adapting and the effective embedding of assessment into Policy and Learning (ADAPT) - Zanzibar



### YouTube Streaming of the Policy Dialogue Forum:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jG4E4v634T8>

Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation : <https://youtube.com/live/BDNezNIszGk...>

Minute 48:30

Zanzibar Broadcasting Corporation :

<https://youtube.com/live/XIWcReWdEqw...> Minute 1:00 - Minute 4:00

### Zanzibar Leo



MKUU wa Chivaheni ya Ripango, Bodi ya Huduma za Maktaba Zanzibar, Rayha Ali Abdalla, akichangia mada wakati wa mkutano wa mpigadimo kuhusu njia ya elimu na tathmini za kujifunza kupitia mpango wa tathmini a kujifunza kwa vijana wa kama ya 21 (ADAPT) unaoimelazwa na Shirika la Elimu Ulimwengu (GESCI) la Kenya kwa kushirikiana na wadau wa elimu kwa mabali za Kenya, upande na Tanzania, (PICTA NA AMERI KHALID).

### Reach out to us

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