



Q2 2024 Progress Report | Prepared for We One Action Network

Project Name: Best Schools Initiative (BSI) – Improved Teacher Training in Informal Schools

Reporting Period: 04/01/2024 to 06/30/2024

Context: CFK Africa's *Best Schools Initiative* seeks to establish best practices that influence student retention, progression, and completion of primary school education. To achieve this goal, the project works in collaboration with 47 APBET (Alternative Providers of Basic Education and Training) schools in Kibera, Kenya's largest informal settlement, to implement specific practices including improving teacher training. It also conducts ongoing monitoring of student attendance and matriculation rates to identify the most effective practices that positively impact learner retention and completion.

Progress on Outcomes and Milestone Activities in Q2

- *Improve Teaching Quality in APBET Schools*
 - During the second quarter, CFK Africa began a series of teacher training workshops to improve the quality of instruction in APBET schools. The project engaged 29 teachers during the April holiday for a 3-day training, benefiting 900 elementary school learners. The workshop was led by 4 CFK Africa field officers, 4 specialized facilitators, and staff from CFK Africa partner Dignitas, a leading Kenyan education development organization.
 - During the dynamic and multi-day workshop, participants were taught pedagogical skills including lesson planning, instructional strategies, and effective teaching methodologies; the development of emotional intelligence, empathy, and self-awareness among educators; fostering positive teacher-student relationships; and supporting the teachers' professional growth and development. Participating teachers also learned practical techniques for collecting, analyzing, and utilizing student data to inform instructional decisions.
 - Additionally, the teachers were onboarded to Dignitas' Lead Now platform for further resources and learning.
 - Following the workshop, the Dignitas team conducted follow-up assessments with each teacher to reaffirm the lessons learned during the training and determine whether the teachers were prepared to implement the new teaching strategies.
 - During the assessment visits by Dignitas, teachers received additional assistance with the implementation of and learning from the Lead Now online platform.
- *Monitoring & Evaluation*
 - The project conducted data analysis of student attendance records received from BSI schools through April. The data demonstrates there has been a decrease in the number of students dropping out of school. Accordingly, the BSI project team is adjusting its overall project design to maximize the impact on APBET schools, teachers, and learners.

- CFK Africa conducted a meeting with newly participating schools in the BSI project, including onboarding them onto the KOBO data collection platform. The team was trained by CFK Africa's Monitoring and Evaluation Lead on the utilization of the tool.
 - The BSI project is now monitoring the student attendance of 47 schools to ensure that informal settlement students have high-quality educational experiences.
- *Emergency Crisis Response for APBET schools*
- Flooding and demonstrations in Kenya resulted in school closures for weeks at a time, causing delays in project implementation and reducing the amount of time that children spent in the classroom during this project quarter.
 - In response to the sanitation and hygiene issues presented by the catastrophic flooding in April and May, all BSI schools were provided with soap ingredients from CFK Africa's WaSH project to reduce the increased risk of waterborne disease caused by dirty flood waters. 11 of the newly onboarded schools received water tank donations.

Q2 Project Learnings, Recommendations, and Actions

As a result of limited data and internet access, participating teachers had difficulty accessing the Lead Now platforms which are an important part of the training and coaching toolkit designed by Dignitas. As a short-term solution, Dignitas provided data to teachers. In the long term, CFK Africa will ensure that the teachers have access to reliable internet to support their professional development and increase instructional quality.

During the next quarter, key actions include further teacher training activities with Dignitas and additional analysis of school attendance trends and community needs to ensure quality education for Kenyan informal settlement youth.

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Appendix: BSI Photos – Teacher Training Activity

