



Catholic Sisters Initiative

DATA CENTERS in AFRICA

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FOUNDATION

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Why the Need for Data Centers

- Currently there is no place for sisters to document the historical development of their congregations in a systematic way
- Digital storage to tell the story of religious life in Africa
- An information management system helps to create a field for sisters to learn from each others' congregations
- Learn how religious life is evolving in Africa
- Document success and challenges of religious life in Africa
- Study of religious life from the African perspective – maintaining context and understanding
- Data and impact of the work of sisters could lead to bilateral partnerships

Catholic Sisters Initiative 5-Year Goals

The **Global Catholic Sisterhood** is a vibrant network of local, national, and global leaders and congregations who offer **prophetic witness** through their strong and sustainable congregations.

Through their ministries and partnerships, **sisters transform the lives of youth, children, and families living in conditions of disadvantage**, so they are self-sufficient and independent, contributing to the vibrancy of their communities

Strategy 1 Support the education, spiritual formation and lifelong care of sisters while building the institutional capacity and sustainability of their congregations

Strategy 2 Support sisters, their congregations, and their ministries to develop human potential at scale for children, youth ages 15-25 and families living in conditions of disadvantage, including through influencing systems

Strategy 3 Build a global movement and infrastructure to network sisters and strengthen the vitality and voice of the global sisterhood

Strategy 4 Create and strengthen the field's data systems and evidence base to enable continued assessment of how well our strategies are working to increase the vitality of the global sisterhood and effectiveness of their ministries

Purpose of Data Centers



- Congregations to consider data gathering, use and storage as a priority and create means to do so
- A place to keep the body of knowledge, the trends of religious life
- Research as a central pathway to learning, and to developing and telling their stories for future generations
- Lack of data impacts on informed decision-making and ability to make timely programmatic changes
- Potential to create shared, collaborative projects and show evidence of the work.

Role of Data Centers / Platforms



- Place to store, analyze and manage information
- Digitization of information for ease of accessibility
- Facilitate the generation, integration, sharing and dissemination of organizational knowledge
- Importance of tracking critical information on scale, scope, impact, effectiveness and sustainability of the work – for example, entrance
- Knowledge is of limited value if it is not shared – archiving congregational stories

Partnership - Data Center in Kenya



- Partnership is key in our funding – collaboration for results and greater impact – **grant to CUEA, AOSK & Tangaza**
- Provides baselines, long-term data production, helps build the field and analysis – longitudinal studies
- Center is for sisters; located within the Catholic University, regional hub.
- Contribute to increasing knowledge dissemination and visibility of sisters' work
- Opportunity to engage sister students in conducting meaningful research and provide research training/ capacity building workshops
- Provide an online portal to access studies/research
- Currently hiring a director

Partnership - Data Center in Uganda



- In process of creating a second data center in Uganda. The model that works best of these two will be rolled to other regions
- Establish a Center of Excellence in Innovative Research and Information Management
- Development of an Online Data Platform for data collection, storage, retrieval and dissemination
- Promote knowledge-sharing through strong data collection processes and practices in order to inform evidence-based decision making



THANK YOU!