

NEWSLETTER #1

STRENGTHENING EDUCATION DATA SYSTEMS ACROSS AFRICA



Monday, 30 March, 2026

AU IPED – GPE KIX Africa 19 Hub



The Pan African Institute for Education for Development (AU IPED), implemented by the Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GESCI), supports the strengthening of education data systems across 19 African countries under the Global Partnership for Education Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (GPE KIX) – a joint endeavour between GPE and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Through research, policy dialogue, peer learning, and technical support, AU IPED is working with governments and partners to strengthen Education Management Information Systems (EMIS), improve data governance, and promote the use of evidence in education planning and decision-making.

In this edition, we highlight key activities and milestones since May 2025, including:

- Liberia EMIS Peer Review and National Dialogue
- South Sudan EMIS Systems Assessment and Capacity Building
- KIX Knowledge Café Series on EMIS Policy, Financing, and Data Use
- KIX Africa 19 Focal Points Meeting
- 4th KIX Continental Symposium on Research and Innovation in Education
- EMIS Research Studies and Policy Briefs
- Voices from the Data Frontline (Audiovisual Series)

We thank our partners and country stakeholders for their continued collaboration in advancing education data systems across the continent.

Liberia EMIS Peer Review and National Dialogue

In September 2025, AU IPED, under the KIX Africa 19 Hub, supported the Ministry of Education in Liberia to conduct a national EMIS Peer Review and Dialogue. The process brought together government officials, technical experts, and peer reviewers from across the region to assess Liberia's education data system using the African Union EMIS Norms and Standards.

The review highlighted key challenges, including limited financing, weak policy and legal frameworks, gaps in ICT infrastructure, and constraints in data validation and system integration. At the same time, the same engagement created space for peer learning, with countries such as Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and The Gambia sharing practical approaches to strengthening EMIS systems.



A key outcome of the process was the development of a costed EMIS action plan, outlining priority interventions across governance, infrastructure, capacity building, and data quality. The engagement also contributed to the Ministry’s decision to advance the development of a dedicated national EMIS policy, marking a critical step toward strengthening data governance and coordination in Liberia’s education sector.

[Read Peer Review Report](#)



[Read National Dialogue Report](#)



South Sudan EMIS Systems Assessment and Capacity Building



From 16–18 March 2026, AU IPED supported the Ministry of General Education and Instruction in South Sudan to conduct a technical assessment of its EMIS system, alongside targeted capacity building for data management officers.

The engagement brought together officials from EMIS, planning, ICT, and policy units to reflect on the current state of education data systems. Discussions highlighted persistent challenges, including fragmented data systems, reliance on paper-based data collection, limited technical capacity, and infrastructure constraints. Field visits further underscored the realities of data collection at school level, where manual processes continue to dominate.

Beyond identifying challenges, the engagement focused on defining practical priorities for system strengthening. Stakeholders emphasized the need for improved data governance, enhanced technical capacity, stronger coordination mechanisms, and investment in digital systems.

The mission is contributing to the development of a structured and costed roadmap for EMIS strengthening, ensuring that assessment findings translate into actionable reforms and sustained improvements in education data systems.

[Read More](#)



KIX Knowledge Café Series on Strengthening EMIS Systems

The KIX Knowledge Café Series continues to serve as a key platform for peer learning and knowledge exchange across the Africa 19 Hub. Since 2025, AU IPED has convened two Knowledge Cafés, bringing together policymakers, technical experts, and partners to discuss critical issues in education data systems.

The sessions have focused on:

- Developing responsive EMIS policy frameworks
- Financing sustainable EMIS systems and understanding total cost of ownership

These dialogues have enabled countries to share experiences, reflect on challenges, and identify practical solutions tailored to their contexts. Importantly, insights from these

3RD KIX KNOWLEDGE BUILDING FINANCIALLY EMIS FOR AFRICA'S

“EMIS finance mainstream t national edu budget otherw never be sust
- **Safia Abdi, M Education, Sc**

have been translated into policy briefs and technical summaries, ensuring that knowledge generated during discussions is captured, structured, and shared more widely.

The Knowledge Café Series continues to play a central role in fostering a culture of collaboration, learning, and evidence-based decision-making across participating countries.

Watch the 2nd Knowledge Café on Responsive EMIS Policy Frameworks



Read Policy Brief from 3rd Knowledge Café on EMIS Financing



KIX Africa 19 Focal Points Meeting on Progress and Priorities



In December 2025, AU IPED participated in the KIX Africa 19 Focal Points Meeting held alongside the Continental Symposium in Senegal. The meeting brought together government representatives from participating countries to reflect on progress, share experiences, and identify priorities for strengthening education data systems.

The discussions provided an important platform for countries to exchange lessons on EMIS development, including challenges related to policy frameworks, coordination, financing, and data use.

It also created space to strengthen collaboration across countries and align efforts under the KIX Africa 19 Hub.

AU IPED contributed to the meeting by sharing emerging insights from research studies, country engagements, and knowledge products, reinforcing the role of evidence in shaping policy dialogue and system reform.

The meeting highlighted the importance of sustained peer learning and collaboration in addressing common challenges and advancing education data systems across the region.

Read More →

4th KIX Continental Symposium on Research and Innovation in Education

From 3–5 December 2025, AU IPED participated in the 4th KIX Continental Symposium held in Senegal, bringing together over 150 education stakeholders from across Africa and beyond.

The symposium, held under the theme “Professional development of teachers in sub-Saharan Africa in the age of artificial intelligence (AI)”, explored the role of innovation and emerging technologies in education systems. Participants engaged in discussions on the opportunities and challenges presented by AI, from policy-level considerations to classroom applications.

The event also provided an important platform for connecting research, policy, and practice, enabling stakeholders to share insights and explore collaborative approaches to strengthening education systems.

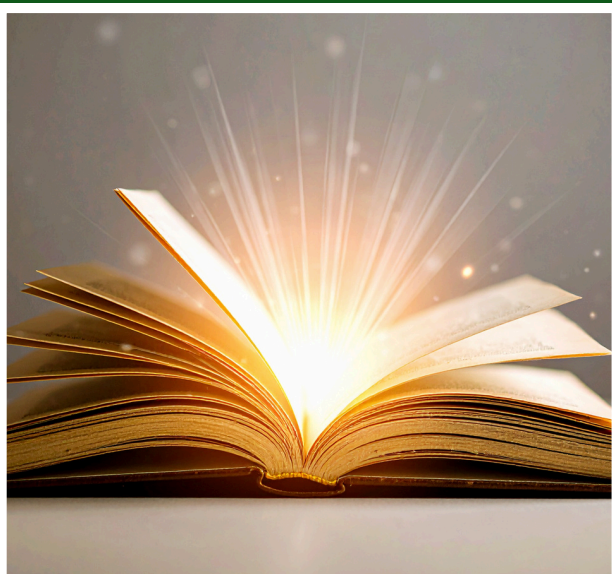


For AU IPED, the symposium served as an opportunity to contribute to broader continental dialogue while sharing insights from its work on education data systems and EMIS strengthening under the KIX Africa 19 Hub.

Read More



Generating Knowledge for EMIS Policy and Practice



A key pillar of AU IPED’s work under the KIX Africa 19 Hub is the development of knowledge products that inform policy and practice.

Since May 2025, AU IPED has produced 24 knowledge products, including research studies, policy briefs technical reports, and knowledge summaries. Two flagship studies on EMIS policy development provide both diagnostic insights and practical guidance for strengthening education data systems across participating countries.

In addition, AU IPED has developed policy briefs, articles, and press releases to translate technical evidence into accessible formats for policymakers and stakeholders.

To further amplify reach, knowledge products are actively disseminated through digital platforms and social media,

ensuring broader visibility and engagement across the education community.

Explore knowledge products



Voices from the Data Frontline

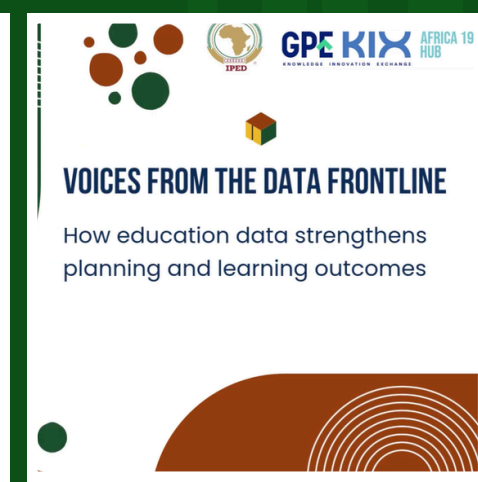
AU IPED has launched the Voices from the Data Frontline audiovisual series, capturing the experiences of education data practitioners across the continent.

The series highlights the realities of managing education data systems, including challenges related to data collection, system coordination, and resource constraints, while also showcasing opportunities for strengthening EMIS systems.

By centering the voices of those working within education systems, the series provides a human perspective on technical issues, supporting

advocacy and strengthening understanding of the importance of reliable education data.

This initiative complements technical knowledge products by making EMIS challenges and solutions more relatable and accessible to a wider audience.



Watch Episode 1

