Accomplishments of Adventist Education in ECD

From 2010 to 2014, the number of schools and/or educational programs in ECD increased by 400, for a total of about 1,900 elementary and secondary schools, and 19 colleges, universities, and training institutions. During the same period, the number of teachers grew by 1,000, and the student enrollment (all levels) expanded by 50,000. Specific programs and initiatives included the following:

2011 Education Advisory Meeting

The quinquennium began with an advisory meeting in June 2011 at Advent Hill, Nairobi, Kenya, attended by union education directors and heads of tertiary institutions in ECD. Mike Lekic, General Conference associate director of education and ECD liaison, along with Hudson Kibuuka, former ECD director of education and now GC associate director of education, served as major facilitators. The advisory meeting helped set the tone for the quinquennium and offered many opportunities for consultation as plans were developed.

ECD Annual Higher Education Consultative Meetings

Every year during the quinquennium, the leaders of the seven universities in ECD (University of Eastern Africa Baraton, Bugema University, University of Arusha, Adventist University of Central Africa, Adventist University of Lukanga, Ethiopia Adventist College, and Adventist University of Central Africa) met for consultation, training, planning, and fellowship. These meetings have resulted in greater collaboration, cooperation, team spirit, mission, and unity; and have also helped to re-emphasize evangelism, Adventist mission and identity, human-resource development, leadership training, and improvement of educational quality.
2013 ECD Biblical Foundations Teachers Conference

A major highlight of the five-year period was the second teachers convention held in ECD and the first of its kind in a Francophone area of our territory. Attended by more than 800 teachers, the conference was held from December 11-21, 2013, at Gabogo Adventist Academy in Rwanda. Upgraded to a boarding academy, the school now has dormitories for boys and girls (each with beds for 500 students); a new cafeteria and a modern kitchen, and is renovating the chapel. The boarding facility also has the capacity to accommodate about 1,000 conference participants. 2 The Honorable Dr.
Vincent Biruta, Rwanda minister of education, who officially opened the conference, expressed his appreciation for the contributions by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the development and uplifting of educational standards in Rwanda.

**Revival and Reformation Initiative**

Each division educational institution is required to have a committee responsible for Revival and Reformation activities, a Spiritual Master Plan, and in-reach/outreach evangelism. This initiative has produced tangible results in evangelism, nurturing, and discipleship, leading to 60,000 baptisms in our schools between 2010 and 2014.

**ECD Medical School in AUCA**

Plans are underway to establish a division medical school in Kigali, Rwanda, to train medical doctors for the Adventist hospitals in the region. The school will admit its first students in 2016 and launch the first rotation of courses.

**Universities Awarded Charters**

Two ECD universities were awarded government charters during this quinquennium: Adventist University of Africa in Nairobi, Kenya; and The University of Arusha in Usa River, Tanzania.

**New University Initiatives**

The East Congo Union Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is establishing Philip Lemon University to provide opportunities for young people to access Adventist higher education. The West Kenya Union Conference plans to upgrade its more-than-100-year-old college in Kagembo to a full-fledged university. Goma Adventist University in Doma, DRC, formerly run by Adventist laypersons, will now be operated by the North East Congo Union Mission.

**ECD Human Resource Development**

The division has invested significant funds to develop leaders and human resources during this quinquennium. More than U.S.$1.5 million has been invested to train and educate some 500 workers in division universities, in Master’s programs in pastoral theology, leadership, business (M.B.A.), public health, and the new doctor of ministry program. More than 300 workers have graduated from AUA. Supplemental...
funds from the General Conference have paid for the education of more than 200 workers from the DRC, Burundi, and South Sudan.3

Development of Ultramodern Infrastructure

One of our greatest needs in ECD is new, modern infrastructure. During this quinquennium, we have been able to achieve the following, to mention a few:

- Adventist University of Central Africa (Rwanda): ultramodern multipurpose hall with seating for more than 1,000 people;
- Adventist University of Central Africa Gishushu Campus: four-story science and technology building;
- Bugema University (Uganda): the purchase of a modern building in Kampala, Uganda, for a city campus;
- Bugema University Medical Centre;
- University of Arusha (Tanzania): multipurpose hall and a new women’s hostel;
- Adventist University of Lukanga Polyclinic (Congo): men’s and women’s hostels;
- Adventist University of Africa (Kenya): Library, student hostels, and faculty housing;
- Gahogo Adventist Academy (Rwanda): Modern boarding facilities.

Challenges Facing Adventist Education in the East-Central Africa Division

The following are some of the major challenges that are facing the education work in ECD:

- Preserving Adventist ethos, identity, and mission;
- Meager resources for much-needed development and growth;
- Stiff competition from private and public schools;
- Providing affordable Adventist education in difficult financial times;
- Recruiting and retaining qualified Adventist teachers;
- Civil unrest and conflicts in some parts of the division;
- Low student enrollment.

The ECD has developed a number of strategies to address these challenges, including additional training for its educators, local resource mobilization, upgrading infrastructure, and aggressive marketing of Adventist education.

Plans for the Coming Quinquennium

- Construction of an Adventist primary school in the Republic of Djibouti, an unentered territory in the 10/40 Window;
- Construction of at least three Adventist primary schools in Somalia once the political situation stabilizes;
- Encouraging the construction of Adventist schools in the 10/40 Window, especially in the East African coastal area, which is dominated by Islam;
- Continued support and infrastructural development of the ECD medical school in Kigali, Rwanda;
- Development and construction of new tertiary institutions in Burundi and Ethiopia;
- Collaboration between ECD union education departments and the Safeliz Publishing House in Spain to develop textbooks that both incorporate Adventist principles and meet government curriculum standards.

Andrew Mutero, Ph.D., is Director of Education for the East-Central Africa Division in Nairobi, Kenya.

REFERENCES

1. These meetings were held at various universities on a rotational basis: in 2011 at University of Eastern Africa Baraton, in 2012 at Bugema University, in 2013 at the University of Arusha, in 2014 at Ethiopia Adventist College, and in 2015 at Adventist University of Central Africa.

2. Funds that could have been spent to accommodate the 800 teachers for eight days in hotels in Kigali, Rwanda’s capital, were used in the construction of the boarding facility, which will be used for many years to come to provide Adventist education for many young people in Rwanda.

3. These pastoral workers have been upgraded and trained, and earned a degree in theology at Adventist University of Central Africa, Bugema University, and Adventist University of Lukanga.

The Advent Hill School Pathfinders drill squad and instructors pose for a photo after a World Pathfinders Day celebration in the school chapel. The school is located in Nairobi, Kenya.