



# CATALYSTS FOR TRANSFORMATION: RE-INVENTING LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION ECOSYSTEM



13th-17th April, 2026



The Edge Convention Centre  
Nairobi, Kenya

# AGENDA

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In pursuit of its mandate, KEMI plans to host its 1st International Conference from 13th - 17th April 2026 at The Edge Convention Centre, South C, Nairobi. The conference aims to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical experience in school leadership and will focus on best practices, lessons learned and shared experiences.

## OBJECTIVES

- To provide a platform for sharing innovative research, policy insights, and practices that promote sustainable and inclusive education leadership.
- To examine the role of governance and accountability in improving educational outcomes.
- To explore inclusive pedagogies and climate-responsive approaches in teaching and learning.
- To enhance collaboration among stakeholders for improved education quality and equitable resource distribution.
- To showcase technological innovations and digital strategies that drive accountability in education systems.
- To stimulate thought leadership on transforming foundational learning through climate-conscious curricula.
- To strengthen capacity-building partnerships between government agencies, academia, and education leaders.

## DAY 1: Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

	Opening of Conference Session Chair: Dr. Charles Omwanza, Ph.D. Rapporteurs: Dr. Mercy Macharia & Dr. Stephen Barkwang'	
<b>Time</b>	Overall Coordinator: Dr. Joyce Kiruma - Director Education Management – Kenya Education Management Institute	
0730 - 0815	Conference Participants Registration and Log in	Location: The Edge Convention Centre Login Details (Zoom)
0815 - 0830	Kenyan National Anthem and East African Anthem Opening Prayers - Prof. Anne Ndiritu	
	<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Activity</b>
0830 - 0840	Dr. Maurice Odondo, PhD - CEO, KEMI	Opening Remarks
0840 - 0850	Mr. Mohamed Sheikh Gabow - Chair, KEMI Council	Speech
0850 - 0910	Chief Guest – Mr. Julius Migos Ogamba – Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education	Official Opening
0910 - 0930	<b>Group Photo and Health Break</b>	
0930 - 0950	Albert Nsengiyumva - Executive Secretary – ADEA	Transforming Education Leadership in Africa: Collaborative Approaches to Achieving Sustainable Development through Quality Education
	Presentation and Launch	
0950 - 1005	Antoninis Manos – GEMR Josephine Kiyenje - GEMR Martin Kungania - MoE Kenya	Presentation and Launch of Spotlight Series Kenya Report 2025
	Panel 1 Discussions	
1005 - 1120	Repositioning School Leadership as a Strategic Policy Driver for Education Transformation Moderator: Shem Bodo - ADEA - ACSL Panelists; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Gichuhi Ndegwa - Policy, Partnerships &amp; EACA (MoE) - Kenya</li> <li>• Dr. Tarah Abdishakur - Nottingham Trent University, UK</li> <li>• Ms. Mapula Ella - CEO - South African Council for Educators - S.A</li> <li>• Dr Eldah Onsomu - Executive Director - Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)</li> <li>• Prof. Mary Otieno- Kenyatta University</li> </ul> Rapporteurs: Dr. Grace Gatundu & Dr. Alphonse Juma	

	<b>Presentation by KEMI</b>	
1120 - 1135	Dr. Charles Omwanza - KEMI Dr. Winnie Joy Gatwiri - VVOB	Blended Professional Development Impact on Junior School Instructional Leadership and Teacher Efficacy
1135 - 1300	<b>Abstracts Presentations</b>	
1300 - 1400	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	
	Panel 2 Discussions	
1400 - 1515	<p><b>Foundational Learning: Practical Approaches to Strengthen Early Literacy and Numeracy</b>  Moderator: Dr. Stella Keter- Moi University  Panelists;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Josephine Kiyenje - UNESCO (Global Education Monitoring Report)</li> <li>• Dr. Jacqueline Jere Folotiya - Senior Foundational Learning Expert - ADEA</li> <li>• Dr. Perpetua Urjo – Dar es Salaam University College of Education</li> <li>• Dr. Nkengne Alian Patrick - Senior Education Specialist - UNESCO - IIEP - Senegal</li> <li>• Dr. Shaheen Nilofer - UNICEF Representative to Kenya</li> <li>• Sarah Koko - RTI International</li> <li>• Dr. Benjamin Piper PhD - Director Global Education Program - Gates Foundation</li> <li>• Hon. Sebastian Owanga Aduong'a - C.E.C.M. - Education, ICT, Gender, Youth Affairs, Sports, Community Development and Social Services - Lamu County, Kenya</li> <li>• Martin Kungania - MoE</li> </ul> <p>Rapporteurs: Dr. James Kioko &amp; Dr. Joyce Otieno</p>	
1515 - 1700	<b>Abstracts Presentations</b>	
1700 - 1800	<b>Networking</b>	
1800	<b>Welcome Cocktail Event</b>	

DAY 2: Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026

<b>Time</b>	Opening of Conference Session Chair: Prof. Raphael Nyonje Rapporteurs: Dr. Jane Barasa & Dr. Godfrey Chesang	
0730 – 0810	Conference participants registration and log in	Login Details (Zoom) Meeting ID:
0810 - 0820	Kenyan National Anthem and East African Anthem Opening Prayers - Mathias Matze	
	<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Activity</b>
0820 - 0830	Dr. Mercy Macharia	Recap of Day 1
0830 - 0845	Dr. Elyas Abdi- Director General- Ministry of Education	Opening Remarks
0845 – 0915	Tom Vandenbosch – Global Director of Programmes, VVOB	Transforming Education Leadership in Africa: Collaborative Approaches to Achieving Sustainable Development and Quality Education
	Presentation	
0915 - 0930	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Joyceline Kirezi - VVOB - ACSL</li> <li>● Sandrine Ishimiwe – VVOB - ACSL</li> <li>● Caren Namalenya - ESSA - ACSL</li> </ul>	Continental Mapping of School Leadership Initiatives in Africa Report (ACSL)
	Panel 3 Discussions	
1000 - 1115	<p><b>Beyond Compliance: Transforming Professional Development for School Leaders</b></p> <p>Moderators: Chinedu Ejike Anarado - ADEA - ACSL and Prof Mary Otieno- Kenyatta University</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dr. Maurice Odondo - CEO KEMI - Kenya</li> <li>● Dr. Maulid Jumanne Maulid - CEO - ADEM - Tanzania</li> <li>● Prof. Nsanganwimana Florien - University of Rwanda - College of Education</li> <li>● Prof. Michael Boakye - Yiadom - DG IEPA - Ghana</li> <li>● Prof. Andrew Clapham - Associate Professor of Education Policy - Nottingham Trent University, UK</li> <li>● Chantal Kabanda Dusabe - Technical Lead -VVOB - ACSL</li> <li>● Prof. Steve Chidi Nwokeocha - Executive Director - Africa Federation of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (AFTRA) - Abuja, Nigeria</li> </ul> <p>Rapporteurs: Dr. Winnie Bulimo &amp; Dr. Onesmus Thuo</p>	

1115 - 1300	<b>Abstracts Presentations</b>
1300 - 1400	<b>Lunch Break</b>
	Panel 4 Discussion
1400 - 1515	<p><b>Leading Curriculum Implementation: Aligning Pedagogy with Policy for Effective Learning Outcomes</b></p> <p>Moderator: Alex Njiiri - Head of Education Reform Sub-Saharan Africa - Cambridge University Press &amp; Assessment</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Evaleen J. Mitei - CEO - Teachers Service Commission (TSC)</li> <li>● Prof. Charles Ochieng' Ong'ondo - CEO - Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD)</li> <li>● Dr. David Njengere - CEO - Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC)</li> <li>● Ezekiel Nonie - Director Teacher Development and Performance - Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission</li> <li>● Dr. Norman Kiogora - Director - Kenya Institute for Special Education (KISE)</li> <li>● Dr. Alice Kande - CEO - Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA)</li> <li>● Napoe Épse Akpo-Gnandi Koumbon - Coordinatrice Regionale - Africa Network Campaign Education for All (ANCEFA) - Togo</li> <li>● Prof. Egara Kabaji - MMUST</li> </ul> <p>Rapporteurs: Dr. Edward Lokidor &amp; Stephen Choge</p>
1515 - 1650	<b>Abstracts Presentation</b>
1650 - 1700	<b>Reflection and Close of Day</b>
1700	<b>Coffee/Tea Break and Departure</b>

## DAY 3: Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026

<b>Time</b>	Opening of Conference Session Chair: Prof. Laura Mamuli Rapporteurs: Dr. Arah Abubakar & Dr. Salome Koskei Yatich	
0730 - 0815	Conference participants registration and log in	Login Details (Zoom) Meeting ID:
0815 - 0830	Kenyan National Anthem and East African Anthem Opening Prayers - Mr. Onesmus Ndaramu	
	<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Activity</b>
0830 - 0845	Dr. Jane Barasa	Recap of Day 2
0845 - 0915	Dr. Sara Ruto - Education Governance Expert	Strengthening Leadership and Accountability for Transformative School Systems
0915 - 0945	<b>Health Break</b>	
	Panel 5 Discussions	
0945 - 1100	<p><b>Leading for Resilience: Advancing Equity and Inclusion in Education</b>  <b>Moderator: Dr. Fay Hodza - Global Senior Director of Programmes - PEAS</b></p> <p>Panelists;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nuria Moreno - Programmes Manager - VVOB - ACSL</li> <li>● Dr. Idle Omar Farah - CEO - Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC)</li> <li>● Casper Pede - Country Programme Lead - Mastercard Foundation</li> <li>● Suah Patience Ujay - Education Development Centre - Senior Technical Advisor - Secondary Education - Liberia</li> <li>● Harun M. Yusuf, HSC - CEO - National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK)</li> </ul> <p>Rapporteurs: Dr. Faraji Yatundu &amp; Virginia Ngindiru</p>	
1100 - 1300	<b>Abstracts Presentations</b>	
1300 - 1400	<b>Lunch Break</b>	

	Panel 6 Discussions
1400 - 1515	<p><b>Climate Education as a Catalyst for Change: Empowering School Leaders to Foster a Culture of Sustainability</b></p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Rodgers Cherui - Daystar University</p> <p>Panelists;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dr. Justin Nyaga - University of Embu</li> <li>● Alex Banda - Green &amp; Gender Education Programming, VVOB Kenya</li> <li>● Prof. Ouma Gilbert O. - Director Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation - UoN</li> <li>● Martin Krause - Director Climate Change Division, UNEP</li> <li>● Harsen Nyambe - Director Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union</li> <li>● Winnie Rachel - Country Director, UNICAF</li> </ul> <p>Rapporteurs: Mr. Elijah Karimi &amp; Emilly Kutto</p>
1515 - 1650	<b>Abstracts Presentations</b>
1650 - 1700	<b>Reflection and Close of Day</b>
1700	<b>Coffee/Tea Break and Departure</b>

## DAY 4: Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026

<b>Time</b>	Opening of Conference Session Chair: Prof. Raphael Nyongj Rapporteurs: Mr. Simon Ngatia & Dr. Laura Mamuli	
0730 - 0815	Conference participants registration and log in	Login Details (Zoom) Meeting ID:
0815 - 0830	Kenyan National Anthem and East African Anthem Opening Prayers - Peris Kiprono	
	<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Activity</b>
0830 - 0845	Dr. Arah Abubakar	Recap of Day 3
0845 - 0915	Dr. Fay Hodza - Global Senior Director of Programmes - PEAS	Driving Global Change Through Inclusive Leadership: Fostering Educational Equality for Every Learner
	Presentation	
0915 - 0930	Mastercard Foundation	Leadership in Teaching (LIT) Report
0930 - 1000	Health Break	
	Panel 7 Discussions	
1000 - 1115	<p><b>Digital Transformation and Innovation in School Leadership</b> Moderator: Dr. Maina wa Gioko - Head of the Professional Development Center, Aga Khan Schools Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prof. Tom Ogada - CEO - Africa Centre for Technology Studies (AI and Innovation)</li> <li>● Dr. Tonny Omwansa - CEO - Kenya National Innovation Agency</li> <li>● Noam Janssens - Strategic Education Advisor - VVOB Kenya</li> <li>● Fredrick Mujumba - HoD KEMIS - Ministry of Education Kenya</li> <li>● Mr. John Paul Okwiri - CEO - Konza Technopolis Development Authority (KoTDA)</li> <li>● Maxwell Fundi - Edutab Africa</li> <li>● Jennifer Cotter - CEO Education Design Unlimited and cofounder Edtech East Africa</li> </ul> <p>Rapporteurs: Virginia Ngindiru &amp; Dr Stephen Barkwang'</p>	
1115 -1300	<b>Best Practices Presentations (Heads of Institutions)</b>	
1300 - 1400	<b>Lunch Break</b>	

Time	Activity
	Panel 8 Discussions
1400 - 1515	<p><b>Financing Education Reforms: Unlocking Resources for Transformative Change</b></p> <p>Moderator: Mamadou Lamine Sow- ADEA - ACSL</p> <p>Panelists;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prof Robert Gateru- Vice Chancellor- Riara University</li> <li>● CPA Prof. Elizabeth Kalunda - Chair - ICPAK Kenya</li> <li>● Prof George K.T. Oduro - Technical Advisor to the Minister - Ministry of Education, Ghana</li> <li>● Mr. Nahum Saul Nyawara - Chief Finance Officer - State Department for Early Learning and Basic Education Kenya (MoE)</li> <li>● Mr. Albert Mwenda - Director General - Budget, Fiscal and Economic Affairs - Ministry of Treasury</li> </ul> <p>Rapporteurs: Stephen Choge &amp; Dr. Ruth Wafubwa</p>
1515 - 1650	<b>Best Practices Presentations (Heads of Institutions)</b>
1650 - 1700	<b>Reflection and Close of Day</b>
1700	<b>Coffee/Tea Break and Departure</b>

## DAY 5: Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026

<b>Time</b>	Opening of Conference Session Chair: Prof. Raphael Nyonje Rapporteurs: Prof. Violet Opata & Dr. Genza Gyaviiva	
0730 - 0815	Conference participants registration and log in	Login Details (Zoom) Meeting ID:
0815 - 0830	Kenyan National Anthem and East African Anthem Opening Prayers - Mathias Matze	
0830 - 0845	Mr. Simon Ngatia	Recap of Day 4
0845 - 0915	Prof. Abdulrazak Shaukat - PS Science, Research, and Innovation - Ministry of Education	Science, Innovation, and Leadership: Paving the Way for Educational Transformation through Research
0915 - 0945	<b>Health Break</b>	
	Panel 9 Discussions	
0945 - 1100	<p><b>Bridging Research and Policy: Leveraging Education Research to Transform School Leadership and Learning Outcomes</b></p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Leila Abdullahi - ESSA - ACSL</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dr. Edmund Aalangdong - Head of Research - ESSA - ACSL</li> <li>● Dr. Moses Ngware - Head of Education and Youth Empowerment Research Unit - APHRC</li> <li>● Dr. Emmanuel Manyasa - Executive Director - USAWA AGENDA</li> <li>● Prof. Jeremiah Kalai – Dean, School of Education - University of Nairobi</li> <li>● Prof. Laban Ayiro - Vice Chancellor - Daystar University</li> <li>● Hon. Thomas Momo Parker - Deputy Minister Planning Research and Development – Liberia</li> <li>● Prof. John Okumu – Vice Chancellor - Kenyatta University</li> </ul> <p>Rapporteurs: Dr. Winnie Joy Gatwiri and Dr. Joyce Njiiri</p>	
1100 - 1300	<b>Best Practices Presentations (Principals)</b>	
1300 - 1400	<b>Lunch Break</b>	

Time	Activity
	Panel 10 Discussions
1400 - 1515	<p><b>Collaboration for Impact: Building Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Quality Education</b></p> <p>Moderator: Everlyne Nyongesa - Regional Gender Technical Lead - VVOB</p> <p>Panelists;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Catherine Matara - Directorate of Policy, Partnerships and EACA (MoE) Kenya</li> <li>● Claire Mazin - Country Programmes Manager - VVOB Kenya</li> <li>● Dr. John Mugo - CEO - Zizi Afrique Foundation</li> <li>● Steve Kariithi - CEO - DIGNITAS</li> <li>● Dr. Mary Mugo - Country Director - EDUKANS</li> <li>● Ruth Charo - Senior Education Specialist - World Bank</li> </ul> <p>Rapporteurs: Dr Petronilla Kingi &amp; Peris Kiprono</p>
1515 - 1615	<b>Best Practices Presentations (Principals)</b>
1615 - 1630	<b>Post Conference Evaluation Survey</b>
1630 – 1645	<b>Conference Reflections and way Forward</b>
1645 - 1700	<p>Closing Remarks;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prof. George K.T. Oduro - Technical Advisor to the Minister - Ministry of Education, Ghana</li> <li>● Dr. Maurice Odondo, PhD – CEO, KEMI</li> <li>● Prof Bitok Julius- PS - Basic Education</li> </ul>
1700	<b>Departure</b>



## CONFERENCE SPONSORS

