

ALIVE ACADEMY OVERVIEW



WHAT IS IT?

ALIVE ACADEMY (AA) is a capacity-Building

arm of the Action for Life Skills and Values in East Africa (ALIVE) initiative. AA is designed as a growth space for local experts developing assessments of life skills and values. The ultimate aim of the AA is to produce a critical mass of experts who can equip assessment institutes, education systems and the education community at large, with the capacities needed to nurture and foster these skills and competencies in children and youth across the region and continent.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

AA will at once be a space for learning, capacity building, and production of tools and tasks (resources) to be open for use by interested stakeholders.

LEARNING: At the heart and core of the ALiVE Academy is learning. The sessions will combine both theory and practice to provide a holistic understanding of assessment and its context. While theoretical underpinnings will deepen participant understanding of the concepts, the practical sessions will ultimately nurture capacities to produce assessment tools. Learning is further encouraged within the AA where participants will explore associated areas of interest through peer learning to enhance understanding as well as the collegial spirit of the academy.



CAPACITY-BUILDING: The capacity-building entails learning, but focuses specifically on development of experts who are capable of supporting and teaching others, whether teachers, government officers at different levels, tutors from TTCs, as well as members of the CSO/NGO community such as RELI members. AA will therefore identify select individuals with the capacity to build the capacity of others in their respective jurisdiction.



PRODUCTION: The AA will ultimately produce a suite of assessments to be utilized either by the respective education systems or in ALiVE open source repository. The tasks and tools developed by the AA will be designed for different purposes and categories of children - younger ages (6 to 12) and adolescents (13 to 17) across both household and school level. ALIVE's first phase produced a tool for adolescents at the household level. The AA will therefore work to produce more tasks and tools for this age range as well as classroom assessment tasks for the younger ages. These assessments will be targeting selected skills identified by each jurisdiction's curriculum in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania or Zanzibar.

AA is composed of four main Cohorts:

Cohort 1: A framing series which include exploring and digging deeper into understanding the formation of different frameworks; the purpose of focusing on skills; matters of assessment of skills as part of daily life and as part of curriculum; approaches to developing and adapting tasks; and considerations of the ethical and educational implications of assessment of life skills and values

Cohort 2: School/classroom based assessments: This Cohort will take AA members through the process of development or adaptation of assessment tasks and tools for use in the school/classroom. Assessments may be developed for both the younger (6-12) and older (13 to 17) age groups as requested by the participating jurisdiction include education systems in Uganda, Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar. A pilot of these tools related to specific skills, subjects and grade levels will be administered in each participating jurisdiction. A group of AA participants from each jurisdiction will lead the tool development process with support from those of other jurisdictions. Of critical importance in the development of these assessment tools is the involvement of teachers associated with the specified subject and grade level from schools involved in pilots of the tools. The school/classroom based assessment development process is intended to be demand driven based on the interest of each jurisdiction. This means that ALiVE will support the expressed need or interest of jurisdiction in developing assessment tools for desired skills, whether summative or formative, classroom based or national. With the exception of Kenya which will be led by ALiVE, other jurisdictions will commence when they are system-ready.



Cohort 3: Household based assessments: This cohort will involve AA members generating additional assessment tasks for the 13 to 17 age group specific to the skills developed in ALiVE Phase 1, namely problem solving, collaboration, self-awareness and respect. AA members may be divided by country groups to focus on an assigned skill or skills. The teams would then share their developed tools to test and administer pilots of all skills in each country to allow for regional use. The development of more tasks for this cohort will allow for the tools to be used to assess and score individual adolescents rather than for producing large-scale results for comparison across different categories.

Cohort 4: Data analysis/statistical methods: This cohort will involve taking participants through the analysis process of data generated from young people responding to the assessment tasks, once tools have been piloted (with data generated from cohort 2 and 3). Members from each jurisdiction may participate in conducting analysis of the data gathered from their respective locations.



WHO IS INVOLVED?

All interested members of ALiVE Phase 1 technical team from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania are invited to participate in the cohorts of the ALiVE ACADEMY. Enrollment in each cohort may be contingent on engagement in previous cohorts. The AA will also invite interested teachers, curriculum development and assessment experts as well as teacher trainers from the education systems ALiVE is working in. Additionally, AA will invite identified and interested members from University and Teacher Training Colleges in each participating jurisdiction as well as members of the RELI/VALI communities.



WHAT IS REQUIRED OF PARTICIPANTS?

Participants are expected to be available for all scheduled sessions, and to complete individual and group tasks and activities between sessions. The ALiVE capacity-building is based on collaborative learning and so relies on inputs from all participants. Information about each cohort and its estimated commitment will be available for potential participants prior to their enrollment so that a realistic evaluation of inputs can be made by each individual.

WHAT FORMAT?

Given the complexity of conducting training across different countries and at times, different time zones, AA modules across all cohorts will be delivered in a hybrid fashion. While many of the theoretical or framing sessions will be done virtually, the more practical and hands on sessions will be delivered on site, face to face (or hybrid) to facilitate participation. This is particularly true for the school/classroom based assessments where task development and validation may involve field-work activities in classrooms.

WHEN/HOW OFTEN?

AA cohorts will be conducted at different intervals throughout the year starting September 2023 up to December 2025. Cohort 1 will be delivered on a regular basis (likely monthly) with different topics covered based on topics of interest or relevance to the participants. Cohort 2 will take place over a period of between 6-12 months depending on spacing of workshops and when the respective systems will need to finalize tools. Cohort 3 will take place starting in October 2023 and will require a period no less than 3 months to complete; Cohort 3 may be repeated in 2024-2025 should more tasks be needed for the repository. Cohort 4 will follow cohort 2 and 3 and will take place over a period of no less than 3 months.



WHAT ARE ASSOCIATED COSTS?

AA courses will be provided free of charge for those participants invited to participate in the various cohorts. Participants will also be supported with relevant costs associated with travel, accommodation and other logistics necessary when members are meeting for hybrid/face to face workshops or when required to go to the field to develop, test or pilot tools.



WHAT IS AWARDED?

AA will provide all participants with certificates of completion of the respective cohort they completed. Participants may be awarded certificates for more than one cohort. Certificates, in the first instance, will be awarded by RELI Africa.



WHO TEACHES THE COURSES?

Most of the courses in the ALiVE ACADEMY will be delivered by Professor Esther Care from the University of Melbourne in the first instance. Increasingly members of the Academy will co-facilitate learning sessions drawing on their local experience. In the peer learning sessions, interested members will facilitate topics they have researched. Where necessary and relevant, other teachers will be sourced based on area of expertise



For further information or clarification about the ALIVE ACADEMY please reach out to the following individuals and organizations based on your respective country/jurisdiction:

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