



**UAPS  
UEPA**

Union for African Population Studies  
Union pour l'Étude de la Population Africaine

# 2025

## ANNUAL REPORT

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2025 marked a pivotal period of innovation, visibility, and adaptation for the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS). Despite persistent funding constraints and global uncertainties affecting development financing, UAPS advanced its mission through digital transformation, enhanced member engagement, expansion of thematic panels, and strengthened research and policy engagement at regional and global platforms.

A significant institutional milestone was the strategic relocation of UAPS offices from the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) to International House at the University of Ghana in May 2025. This move provided UAPS with expanded operational space, modern infrastructure, and enhanced capacity to serve its growing pan-African membership of over 2000 researchers and practitioners.

Other key milestones included the launch of a comprehensive Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system that now manages over 500 member profiles, consolidation of the AIR Grant Cohort 2 program which provided small research grants to 10 early-career researchers from the AfRes-Data Fellowship and 13 travel grants to early career researchers across 18 African countries to attend an intensive Scientific Writing Workshop in Nairobi; the launch of two new thematic panels, reconstitution of the two existing panels and strategic representation at the International Population Conference (IPC 2025) in Brisbane Australia, AFRIPAL in Uganda and the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP 2025) in Bogota Columbia.





Union for African Population Studies  
Union pour l'Étude de la Population Africaine

The Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) is a pan-African non-profit organization that aims to promote the scientific study of population and the application of research findings in development planning in Africa. UAPS was established at the initiative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) by the Third General Conference of African Demographers, Statisticians and Planners held in Addis Ababa in March 1984.

UAPS is the only population-focused organization that represents all regions of Africa, crossing language and geographical barriers to foster networking, knowledge sharing, and learning across the continent.

The Union currently has more than 2,000 population scientists and researchers in Africa and other parts of the world.



## MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

The Mission of UAPS is to foster the networking of scientist, policy makers and other stakeholders in population and development in order to improve research capacity and promote evidence-based population policies and programmes in Africa.



## OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the Union are to:

- Support the training of the next generation of researchers;
- Link scholars for knowledge sharing through various forms of networking;
- Promote dialogue between population and development experts and policy makers; and
- Foster the visibility of scientific research on Africa population

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## TO FURTHER ITS MISSION, UAPS:

- Organizes seminars and training workshops to further scientific knowledge
- Organizes the flagship African Population Conference every four years to bring together world specialists in the field
- Publishes outcomes of its scientific activities in a variety of publications, notably the Journal of African Population Studies aimed at a scientific audience, policy makers or for the general public
- Maintains a website, to help its members collaborate in a variety of ways and to provide population information for a general audience

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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## Dear Members and Partners,

The Union for African Population Studies entered 2025 with renewed purpose to strengthen our institutional foundation while deepening our impact in the African population science ecosystem. .

As we reflect on the past twelve months, I am proud to report that despite unprecedented challenges, we have made transformative strides toward digitisation, expanded engagement across our growing membership base of over 2,000 individuals from 45 African countries, and elevated African scholarship and advocacy in global fora.

A defining moment in our institutional journey was the successful relocation of our Secretariat offices to International House at the University of Ghana in May 2025. After nearly two decades of being housed within the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), this strategic move represents our evolution as an independent, continent-wide organisation. The new office facility provides us with a dedicated, expanded staff workspace commensurate with the increasing staff numbers at the Secretariat. This physical transformation mirrors our organisational growth and reinforces our commitment to

serving Africa's population research community with excellence. The launch of our new CRM system has revolutionised how we engage with members, enabling personalised communication, tracking research interests, facilitating collaborations, and providing real-time analytics that inform our strategic decisions.

We can now segment our membership by research interests, career stage, geographic location, and engagement level, allowing for more targeted and effective programs.

As part of the continuation of AfRes-Data, we sustained our partnership with the American Institute for Research to roll out the second AIR Grant Cohort, which supported 10 exceptional early-career researchers from the AfRes-Data ECR Fellowship Program. The partnership also awarded 13 travel grants to ECR UAPS Members to attend an intensive 5-day Scientific Writing workshop in Nairobi, Kenya.

We witnessed the successful reconstitution and launch of two critical Scientific Thematic panels focusing on population growth dynamics and climate change, and data and artificial intelligence, and the reconstitution of two previous panels (Gender Equality and Family Planning,

Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights), which are the family planning and sexual reproductive health rights and gender equality panels. The panels have hosted several webinars, applied for grants, hosted side events, and produced critical research outputs that drive African-centred responses to emerging demographic and development challenges.

Our global visibility was enhanced through strategic participation in major international conferences. At the International Population Conference (IPC) in Brisbane, Australia, UAPS participated in Session 167 on Regional Population Associations, presenting a paper titled "Demographic Challenges:

Addressing Data Concerns.” We also convened a UAPS members meeting during the conference to strengthen our network and collaborative efforts.

At the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) in Bogota, our Family Planning and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (FP/SRHR) Thematic Panel facilitated a critical dialogue on “Understanding and Addressing ‘Hidden’ Contraceptive Demand Across Africa” This session brought together policymakers, donors, and researchers to address the pressing implications of funding reductions on reproductive health services across the region.

These engagements reinforced UAPS’s position as a leading voice in African population research and demonstrated our commitment to addressing critical demographic and health challenges on the global stage. However, 2025 also tested our resilience. Global funding constraints impacted our operations, forcing difficult decisions about program prioritisation and resource allocation. We navigated office relocation costs while

maintaining program quality and management. Yet through strategic partnerships and innovative solutions, we not only sustained our impact but also strengthened our operational foundation.

The lessons learned about financial sustainability, the importance of institutional infrastructure, the power of digital engagement, and the strength of our community will guide our strategic planning for 2026-2030. We are committed to building a UAPS that is financially sustainable, technologically advanced, deeply connected to its membership, and influential in shaping policies that improve lives across Africa.

On behalf of the Council, I extend sincere gratitude to our members whose passion drives our work, our partners whose collaboration amplifies our impact, and our donors whose support, even in challenging times, makes our mission possible. Together, we are building a vibrant African population research community that will shape the continent’s future.

In solidarity and purpose,

## **Professor Nyovani Janet Madise**

President, Union for African Population Studies



## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES

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To provide a clear picture of our work and impact in 2025, this Annual Report is organised around the four institutional objectives of the Union. These objectives guide our efforts to support emerging researchers, foster collaboration, engage policymakers, and amplify African-led research. The fifth objective, which focused on institutional growth and visibility, was added to highlight activities that strengthen the Union's long-term sustainability. This structure offers an accessible overview of how each activity contributes to our mission and strategic direction.

# OBJECTIVE 1: SUPPORT THE TRAINING OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS

## A. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING: UAPS/AIR GRANT COHORT 2 AIR GRANT COHORT 2 PROGRAM:



### PRESENTING THE 2<sup>ND</sup> COHORT UAPS/AIR P3-AFRICA FELLOWS



**Atschong Ngwibete**  
University of Global Health Equity Rwanda



**Sunday Matthew Abatan**  
Federal University Oye-Ekiti Nigeria



**Fiamnah Aniff Akem**  
University of Dschang Cameroon



**Anthony Senanu Agbeve**  
University of Cape Coast Ghana



**Nisily Mushiari**  
Maseno University Kenya



**Moté Alonyenya Labbé**  
Université Joseph K-ZIRBO Burkina Faso



**Olurontanwa Ifedayo Oyetunde**  
University of Ibadan Nigeria



**Sultan Hebo**  
Addis Ababa University Ethiopia



**Love Bukola Ayemolowo**  
Obafemi Awolowo University Nigeria



**Sinegugu Shongwe**  
University of KwaZulu-Natal South Africa

Building on the success of Cohort 1, the American Institutions for Research (AIR) Grant Cohort 2 program deepened UAPS's investment in nurturing the next generation of African population scientists. The program supported 10 exceptional UAPS AfRes-Data Fellows from seven African countries, including Nigeria (3), Cameroon (2) and one each from Ghana, Malawi, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, and South Africa. The partnership also provided travel grants to 13 ECRs from seven African countries to attend the in-person workshop in Kenya. The workshop was held on August 11–15, 2025.



### PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

Each fellow received a research grant averaging \$9,000 to support the continuation of their research project, which they started under the AfRes-Data Fellowship mentorship from senior scholars from AIR matched by research interests, participation in an in-person scientific writing workshop and networking opportunities with peers and established researchers.



## RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS:

The ten grantees represent a diverse portfolio of research addressing critical population and health challenges across sub-Saharan Africa. Four projects focus specifically on sexual and reproductive health (SRH), examining period poverty and menstrual health inequities affecting adolescent girls' educational outcomes; early sexual debut among adolescent girls in security crisis contexts with emphasis on family environment and social support; SRH access disparities among pastoralist youth; and implementing readiness-based models to enhance postpartum long-acting reversible contraceptive uptake in rural settings.

Three projects address maternal and child health dimensions, including leveraging mobile health technology to improve maternal and mental health service utilisation among adolescent mothers aged 15-24; exploring the relationship between maternal oral health and food insecurity among pregnant women; and enhancing facility-based postpartum family planning services.

Two studies examine vulnerable populations in crisis settings, investigating mental health, sexual consent, and male agency among displaced men in conflict-affected areas, and exploring the intersection between population ageing, digital exclusion, and disaster vulnerability among older adults in rural communities. Additionally, other projects explore complex gender and health dynamics: examining how intimate partner violence moderates the relationship between women's economic empowerment and fertility across multiple African countries; and bridging traditional knowledge and modern oncology by investigating alternative medicine use for prostate cancer treatment.

Collectively, these research projects address gender equity, health access in marginalised populations, crisis resilience, technological innovation in health service delivery, and the integration of traditional and modern health systems, contributing evidence to inform policy and practice across diverse African contexts (refer to the table below for more details).

FELLOW NAME	INSTITUTION OF AFFILIATION	RESEARCH PROJECT
Nissily Mushani		Double vulnerability: population ageing, digital exclusion, and disaster risk among older adults in rural Malawi
Annif' Akem Fiennasah	University of Dschang, Cameroon	When Empowerment Meets Violence: The Moderating Role of Intimate Partner Violence on the Women's Economic Empowerment-Fertility Relationship in Six African Countries
Atenchong Ngwibete	University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda	Exploring Mental Health, Sexual Consent, and Male Agency Among Displaced Men in Benue State, Nigeria
Anthony Senanu Agbeve	University of Cape Coast, Ghana	Period Poverty and Transformative Education in Ghana: Addressing Menstrual Health Inequities and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

Matè Alonyenyo Labité	Université Joseph KI-ZERBO, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	Entrée précoce en vie sexuelle chez les adolescentes et jeunes filles en situation de crise sécuritaire au Burkina Faso : Environnement familial et soutien social
Sunday Matthew ABATAN	Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Nigeria	Bridging traditional knowledge and modern oncology: the use of alternative medicine for prostate cancer treatment among men in Ekiti state, Nigeria
Sinegugu Shongwe	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Investigating the interplay between maternal oral health and food insecurity among pregnant women in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
Oloruntomiwa Ifedayo Oyetunde	University of Ibadan, Nigeria	Leveraging Mobile Health to improve Maternal and Mental Health Service Utilisation among Adolescent and Young Mothers (15-24) in Oyo state (LEMOM Study)
Sultan Hebo	Arba Minch University	Bridging the Gap: Identifying, Understanding, and Addressing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Access Disparities among Pastoralist Youth in Ethiopia
Love Bukola Ayamolowo	Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria	Implementing a Readiness-Based, Facility-Integrated Model to Enhance Postpartum Long-Acting-Reversible Contraceptive Uptake in Rural Osun State, Nigeria



## PROGRESS AND OUTCOMES:



**Completed Quantitative Phase** — 5 Grantees



**Sample sizes:** 203 – 527 participants



**Highest response rate:** 95%



**Completed Baseline Studies** — 3 Grantees



**Quantitative + Qualitative components completed**

All ten grantees have made significant progress across various stages of their research projects. Seven grantees have successfully secured ethical approvals from relevant institutions, including Ministries of Health, State Emergency Management Agencies, Ekiti State Teaching Hospital, and Malawi's NCRSH, while three are actively awaiting clearance with instruments ready for deployment.

Data collection has advanced substantially across the cohort: five grantees have completed their quantitative data collection phases, with sample sizes ranging from 203 to 527 participants and achieving response rates as high as 95%; three have completed baseline assessments, including both quantitative and qualitative components; and two have partially completed qualitative data collection due to logistical constraints or pending school resumption.

Analysis and dissemination activities are well underway, with four grantees having drafted manuscripts or papers that have been reviewed by mentors, one poster presentation prepared, and one abstract accepted for the Population Association of America Conference.

Capacity building has been robust, and grantees have had research assistant training, stakeholder engagement through inception meetings and co-creation workshops, acquisition of analytical software (NVivo), professional development training, intervention implementation, including health worker training facilitated by TCI experts, and procurement of data collection equipment. Several grantees have established strong governance structures, including diverse oversight committees and have received crucial methodological guidance from the August 2025 UAPS/AIR training workshop in Nairobi.

Looking ahead, immediate priorities include finalising qualitative instruments and commencing fieldwork for three grantees awaiting ethical clearance, completing ongoing data analyses, submitting manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals such as *Ageing & Society* and *Disasters*, *Journal for African Population Studies (JAPS)*, conducting pretesting of instruments, implementing interventions, and planning stakeholder dissemination activities scheduled between January and July 2026.

## B. SCIENTIFIC WRITING WORKSHOP IN NAIROBI



African early-career researchers face persistent challenges in producing and publishing rigorous, policy-relevant research (Kumwenda et al., 2017). Across the continent, emerging African scholars face significant barriers in obtaining specialised training that would enable them to translate culturally informed research ideas addressing local health challenges into successful grant applications and policy-relevant studies. This workshop directly addresses documented barriers that prevent African early-career researchers from contributing meaningfully to the evidence base needed for effective family planning policy and programming across the continent.

### The needs assessment conducted before this workshop highlighted major capacity gaps:

- Most participants rated themselves at basic or no knowledge level in causal inference, difference-in-differences methods, and publishing processes.
- Proficiency in STATA was particularly low, with 76% reporting minimal or no experience.
- Challenges included difficulty structuring manuscripts, weak grant-writing skills, and a lack of mentorship.



Participants also expressed strong interest in hands-on learning formats, particularly practical STATA labs, manuscript drafting sessions, and proposal development clinics.

They prioritised skills in scientific writing, mixed-methods research, impact evaluation, and policy translation.

The workshop was therefore designed to directly address these gaps, combining technical skill-building with professional development and peer networking.



## WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

Building on the needs assessment findings, the workshop set out clear objectives to ensure that the training was both relevant and impactful. These objectives sought to bridge the gap between participants' current skills and the competencies required to conduct high-quality, policy-relevant research.

They also reflected the dual emphasis on strengthening technical expertise and fostering collaborative professional networks that could support participants well beyond the workshop itself.

### PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:

- Strengthen theoretical and practical understanding of impact evaluation designs.

- Build technical skills in STATA for data analysis.
- Develop comprehensive capabilities in research proposal writing and grant acquisition.
- Enhance scientific writing and publishing skills.
- Foster sustainable professional networks across African institutions.

### SECONDARY OBJECTIVES:

- Promote best practices in research ethics and methodology.
- Introduce trends in open science, AI-assisted research tools, and research communication.
- Encourage cross-country collaboration and peer mentorship.



## PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS



## WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

### Key outcomes of the workshop included

- Significant improvement in methodological expertise in impact evaluation designs, including RCTs, difference-in-differences, and matching methods.
- Strengthened grant writing and proposal development skills, with 92% of participants reporting they now feel well-prepared to submit competitive applications.
- Substantial gains in STATA proficiency, with participants moving from mostly basic or no knowledge to demonstrated competence in data management and analysis.
- Improved scientific writing capabilities, particularly in manuscript structuring, journal selection, and responding to peer review.

Participant satisfaction was exceptionally high, with a 100% completion rate, an average overall rating of 4.9/5.0, and 92% reporting they were “very satisfied.” (refer to table below) The integration of pre-identified

needs with responsive workshop design underscores the workshop’s success as a model for targeted capacity building.

### COMPREHENSIVE POST-WORKSHOP EVALUATION

Evaluation Dimension	Result
Response Rate	100% (23/23 participants)
Overall Satisfaction	92% Very Satisfied (21 participants), 8% Satisfied (2 participants)
Average Rating	4.9 / 5.0
Learning Objectives	87% Fully Achieved (20 participants), 13% Largely Achieved (3 participants)



### LESSONS LEARNED AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The workshop generated several important insights that can guide the design of future capacity-building initiatives.

**i. Workshop needs assessment and daily-feedback form as critical success factors:**

The pre-workshop needs assessment played a vital role in aligning the workshop content with participants’ expectations particularly in areas such as Stata proficiency and scientific writing. This alignment contributed to high satisfaction rates and strong learning outcomes. In addition, the use of daily feedback forms allowed facilitators to monitor engagement and adjust delivery methods as needed. Together, these mechanisms reinforced the value of participant-centred design and adaptive facilitation in professional development programming.

**ii. Hands-on learning maximises retention**

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● **iii. Peer learning amplifies individual growth:**

Cross-country collaboration and interdisciplinary working groups fostered unexpected synergies. Participants often highlighted peer discussions and collaborative exercises as equally valuable to expert instruction. This outcome suggests that structured peer interaction should remain a central element of future workshops.

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● **iv. Context-specific examples enhance relevance**

The integration of African case studies and locally relevant research examples significantly boosted participant engagement. Feedback consistently underscored the value of seeing methodologies applied to familiar contexts, emphasising the importance of regional customisation in capacity-building efforts.

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● **v. Professional development beyond technical skills**

Although technical training was the primary focus, participants placed high value on professional development components such as networking, grant writing, and publication strategies. This outcome suggests that holistic career development approaches generate greater long-term impact than training that focuses solely on technical skills.

The workshop's success reflects the critical importance of sustained investment in African research talent development. Participants entered the program with varying levels of methodological expertise and emerged with a sophisticated understanding of impact evaluation techniques, enhanced statistical analysis capabilities, and strengthened professional competencies. The unanimous recommendation rate and high satisfaction scores validate the program design and delivery approach.

### C. STATA TRICKS WEBINAR SERIES

To continue capacity building for African Early Career Researchers, UAPS partnered with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) Pipeline Partnership program (P3-Africa) and the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) to successfully deliver a two-part webinar series on STATA programming techniques for African graduate students in March and April 2025.

The series attracted remarkable interest across the continent, with combined registrations exceeding 2,800 students from 49 countries, demonstrating the significant demand for advanced quantitative skills training among emerging African researchers.

The STATA Tricks webinar series was designed as two complementary 60-minute sessions delivered via Zoom, led by Dr Sudhanshu Handa, Institute

Fellow at AIR and Professor of Public Policy at the University of North Carolina, and Dr Paul Sirma, Economist at AIR. The program targeted current graduate students in Economics, Population Studies, and related disciplines at African universities, focusing on practical skills essential for producing publication-quality research outputs.

The curriculum centred on three core competencies that directly address common challenges faced by graduate students preparing manuscripts for academic journals. Participants learned to create rich descriptive graphs for data analysis, generate summary graphs of coefficient estimates from regression models, and use OUTREG2 to produce journal-quality tables. Each session included access to sample STATA code that students could use for practice and reference in their own research projects.



## PERFORMANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

The first session, held on March 26, 2025, demonstrated exceptional engagement with 1,381 registrations and 686 attendees, yielding an impressive 50% attendance rate that significantly exceeded typical webinar benchmarks. Peak concurrent attendance reached 514 participants, indicating sustained interest throughout the session. The geographic distribution revealed strong participation from the United States at 37%, followed by Kenya at 22%, Uganda at 15%, Ghana at 13%, and Tanzania at 5%. The substantial U.S. participation likely reflects engagement from African diaspora students and international collaborators working on Africa-focused research.

The second session on April 2, 2025, attracted even more registrations with 1,514 sign-ups, though the attendance rate declined to 30% with 456 participants. However, the average watch time of 43 minutes, representing 72% of the session duration, demonstrated that attendees who joined remained highly engaged with the content. This session achieved remarkable geographic diversity with participants joining from 49 countries. The distribution shifted somewhat from the first session, with Malawi leading at 18%, the United States also at 18%, Kenya at 13%, Ghana at 9%, and Nigeria at 7%.



## IMPACT AND REACH

The webinar series successfully addressed a critical skills gap in data visualisation and regression output presentation for African graduate researchers. The combined registration total approaching 2,900 students underscores the substantial demand for this type of technical training across the continent. The program's free registration model and flexible participation structure, which allowed students to attend either or both sessions according to their needs and schedules, maximised accessibility and inclusivity.

The geographic breadth of participation is particularly noteworthy, with representation spanning East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi), West Africa (Ghana, Nigeria), and dozens of other nations across the continent and beyond. This pan-African reach reflects the collaborative strength of the organising

partnership between P3-Africa, AERC, and UAPS, whose combined networks successfully mobilised graduate students from diverse institutional and national contexts.

The focus on journal-quality output preparation directly supports students' academic advancement and publication goals. By equipping participants with practical skills in creating professional visualisations and tables, the webinar series contributes to building research capacity that will enhance the quality and competitiveness of African scholarship in international academic venues.

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## OBSERVATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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The contrast between the two sessions offers valuable insights for future programming. While Session 1's 50% attendance rate was exceptional, Session 2's 30% rate, though lower, still represents meaningful engagement given the average watch time. The difference may reflect various factors, including scheduling conflicts, overlapping academic commitments, or students' selective attendance based on specific content needs. The strong average watch time in Session 2 suggests that those who attended found the content valuable and relevant to their research needs.

The significant number of registrants who were unable to attend live sessions points to potential opportunities for expanding program delivery. Offering recordings, repeat sessions in different time zones, or on-demand content could accommodate students across Africa's multiple time zones and varying academic schedules. Additionally, the demonstrated interest suggests potential for developing advanced follow-up workshops that build on the foundational techniques covered in this series.

The program's success also highlights the value of multi-institutional partnerships in delivering

capacity-building initiatives. The collaboration between P3-Africa, AERC, and UAPS enabled outreach and engagement at a scale that would be difficult for any single organisation to achieve independently, demonstrating an effective model for future educational programming targeting African graduate students.

The STATA Tricks webinar series represents a successful capacity-building initiative that delivered high-quality quantitative training to hundreds of African graduate students while reaching thousands more through registration and promotional activities. The program's strong attendance rates, sustained engagement, and remarkable geographic diversity confirm both the relevance of the content and the effectiveness of the partnership delivery model.

As the next generation of African researchers continues to develop their analytical capabilities, programs like this webinar series play an essential role in ensuring they have the technical skills needed to produce rigorous, publication-ready research that contributes to knowledge advancement across the continent and globally.

### **C. SKILLING AFRICA FOR THE AI ERA WEBINAR SERIES: A STRATEGIC CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVE**

Led by the East and Southern Africa Regional Representatives, UAPS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the East African Statistical Institute (EASI) and the Population and Social Development Institute (PSDI) to host an innovative 18-part webinar series titled “Skilling Africa for the AI Era: Data Science Tools and Policy Applications.” This strategic partnership addresses critical skills gaps within National Statistical Systems (NSS) across Africa, responding to the rapidly evolving data landscape where traditional sources must be integrated with non-traditional data streams, including satellite imagery, mobile data, and administrative systems, alongside advances in machine learning, big data, and artificial intelligence.



#### **WEBINAR SERIES STRUCTURE**

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The comprehensive 18-webinar curriculum is organized into five thematic modules delivered monthly over 18 months: (A) AI-Assisted Data Collection & Emerging Tools (5 webinars covering data collection in the AI era, synthetic data for survey design, geospatial and remote sensing applications, generative AI for questionnaire development, and ethical/institutional implications); (B) Foundations in Data for Policy and Small Area Estimation (4 webinars on SAE applications, direct estimation techniques, area and unit-level modelling approaches,

and software implementation); (C) Machine Learning for Social Science and Policy Use (3 webinars examining ML models in practice, applications in social science, and live demonstrations); (D) Evidence, Evaluation, and Data Use for Policy (3 webinars addressing data quality, causal inference for policy evaluation, and text analysis/NLP); and (E) Systems and Justice in Policy Data Use (3 webinars on administrative and big data, ethics and data justice, and curriculum design for policy impact).



## LAUNCH WEBINAR SUCCESS

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The inaugural webinar was held on October 31, 2025, attracting over 500 registrants and 200 attendees who provided overwhelmingly positive feedback. Key metrics included 63.2% excellent ratings overall, with the presenter's knowledge receiving the highest rating at 79.2%. Participants particularly valued the hands-on demonstrations and AI tool exposure, with comments such as one participant noted that "The instant data scraper demo was eye-opening!" Ninety per cent of participants found all content relevant, and qualitative feedback highlighted strong demand for continued interactive learning on AI applications in qualitative research, social media scraping, natural language processing, and data dashboarding, particularly in African contexts.



## TARGET AUDIENCE AND METHODOLOGY

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The series targets three tiers of participants:

**Tier 1** includes statisticians and data analysts from National Statistical Offices, sector ministries, and local government authorities;

**Tier 2** comprises researchers, students, and academics specialising in applied statistics and data science; and

**Tier 3** encompasses policymakers, program managers, and professionals from international organisations and development agencies. Each 75-100 minute session combines theoretical lectures, case study discussions, live demonstrations, and breakout sessions, delivered in English with French subtitles to ensure broad accessibility.



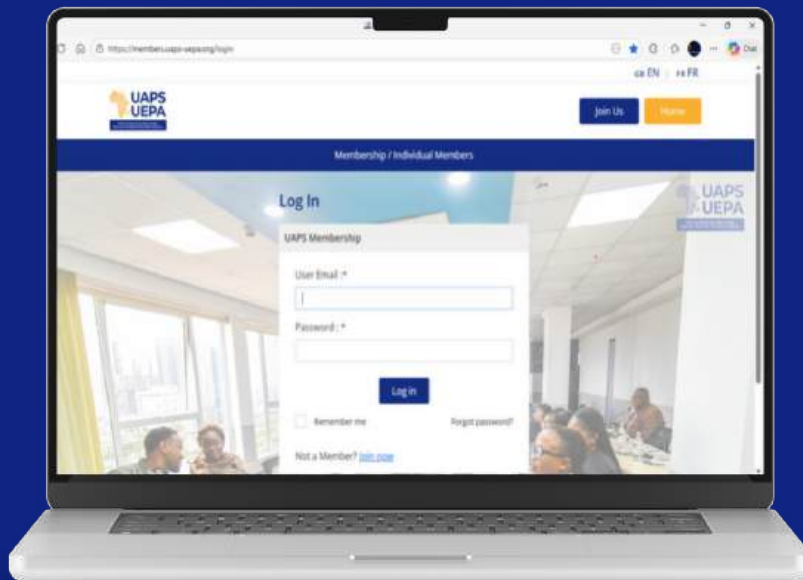
## SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

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To ensure long-term impact, the initiative incorporates three key sustainability mechanisms: participants develop action plans detailing how they will transfer knowledge to colleagues in their institutions; tracer studies will continuously measure impact and assess the extent to which participants apply skills to support data needs in their sectors, regions, and districts; and the webinar content will be integrated into academic curricula and offered as short courses, creating a continuous pipeline of skilled professionals for national and subnational statistical systems. This innovative partnership positions UAPS at the forefront of building AI-literate statistical capacity across Africa, directly contributing to the continent's data and digital transformation agenda.

# OBJECTIVE 2: LINK SCHOLARS FOR KNOWLEDGE SHARING THROUGH

## A. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: LAUNCH OF THE UAPS CRM SYSTEM AND MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT



### SYSTEM CAPABILITIES:

The CRM system, customised for UAPS needs, now manages detailed profiles of over 500 members, including demographic information, research interests, publication records, participation history, and engagement preferences. To increase use, the secretariat will continue to send email notifications to members to sign up for the CRM. The system enables automated communication workflows, personalised email campaigns, online payment processing for membership fees, and advanced analytics dashboards for tracking organisational metrics.

### IMPACT METRICS:

Since launch, the CRM has provided seamless access to over 100 newly registered members

and over 400 renewed memberships, with comprehensive profiles showcasing each member's areas of expertise and specializations.

The system has also streamlined membership dues payment and renewal processes, making it easy for members across the globe to pay their membership dues. Staff can now instantly access member expertise databases, facilitating better networking and collaboration across the organisation.

### ONGOING DEVELOPMENT:

UAPS continues to enhance the CRM with planned additions, including a member portal for self-service, integration with conference and event management systems, mobile app development, and an AI-powered recommendation engine for collaboration matching.

## **B. LAUNCH AND RECONSTITUTION OF THEMATIC PANELS**

In 2025, UAPS undertook a comprehensive reconstitution of its thematic panels, transforming them from dormant structures into vibrant hubs of collaborative research, knowledge exchange, and policy engagement. This strategic revitalisation aimed to strengthen UAPS's capacity to address critical population issues through coordinated expert networks and evidence-based advocacy.

### **RECONSTITUTED AND NEWLY ESTABLISHED PANELS**

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Two panels were successfully reconstituted and launched during 2025. The Gender Equality and Family Planning/Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (FP/SRHR) Panels were reconstituted with renewed focus and membership. The FP/SRHR Panel demonstrated its immediate impact through its leadership of the highly successful side event at ICFP 2025 in Bogotá, which addressed hidden contraceptive demand across Africa and attracted global attention.

### **NEWLY CONSTITUTED PANELS**

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The Data and Artificial Intelligence Panel was newly established to position UAPS at the forefront of Africa's data revolution, addressing the integration of traditional and non-traditional data sources, machine learning applications, and AI-assisted methodologies in population research. Additionally, the Population Growth Dynamics and Climate Change Panel was introduced to examine the critical intersections between demographic trends and environmental sustainability, recognising the urgent need for African-led research on climate-population nexus issues.

### **PANEL STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION**

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Each thematic panel comprises 7-10 carefully selected members representing diverse expertise, geographic representation across African regions, institutional affiliations from universities, research institutes, and implementing organisations, and gender balance to ensure inclusive perspectives. Panel members serve as thought leaders, research coordinators, and bridges between academic scholarship and policy application within their respective thematic areas.

Future Expansion: Building on the momentum of 2025, the Adolescent and Youth Development Panel is scheduled for launch in 2026, reflecting UAPS's commitment to addressing the unique needs, aspirations, and challenges of Africa's largest and fastest-growing demographic segment. This panel will focus on adolescent sexual and reproductive health, youth employment and economic participation, education and skills development, and youth engagement in governance and civic participation.

### **STRATEGIC IMPACT**

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The reconstitution and expansion of thematic panels represents a pivotal shift in UAPS's operational model, creating sustainable structures for sustained engagement, coordinated research agendas, policy dialogue, and knowledge dissemination. These panels position UAPS to respond more effectively to emerging population challenges while elevating African expertise and perspectives in global demographic discourse.

## THEMATIC PANEL WEBINARS

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The Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) Monthly Webinar Series continued to serve as a vital platform for advancing evidence-based dialogue on critical population and development issues across Africa throughout 2025.

Convened under the auspices of UAPS Scientific Thematic Panels, the series comprised five major webinars that brought together distinguished scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and researchers from across the continent and beyond to address pressing challenges at the intersection of population dynamics, environmental change, social equity, and development.

The webinar programme represented a strategic investment in knowledge mobilisation and South–South as well as North–South knowledge exchange, providing accessible virtual spaces for rigorous scientific engagement while fostering interdisciplinary collaboration among demographers, geographers, economists, public health experts, human rights advocates, and environmental scientists.

The series underscored UAPS’s commitment to bridging research, policy, and practice by facilitating dialogue that was both theoretically grounded and directly relevant to African contexts.

Across the year, the webinars addressed a broad range of critical thematic areas, including computational demography and population–environment interactions, homelessness measurement and urban social policy, reproductive rights and demographic change, population dynamics and climate change, biodiversity conservation, and environmental justice and health.

Collectively, these discussions illuminated the complex interconnections between demographic trends, inequality, governance, and sustainable development, while centring African realities and lived experiences.

The series featured a diverse and highly distinguished group of speakers drawn from African universities, national statistical offices, municipal governments,

civil society organisations, and international academic institutions. Presentations combined robust empirical evidence, innovative methodological approaches, and grounded policy and practice perspectives.

Several sessions explicitly bridged evidence and implementation, examining how data systems, legal frameworks, and policy instruments translate into real-world outcomes for vulnerable populations, including women, adolescents, persons with disabilities, migrants, and urban poor communities.

Audience engagement remained consistently strong throughout the year. Collectively, the webinars attracted several hundred registrants and participants, with high levels of live attendance, sustained viewing time, and active participation during question-and-answer sessions.

Peak concurrent attendance across sessions reflected strong interest in UAPS/UEPA’s thematic focus areas, while the depth and quality of discussion demonstrated the relevance of the webinars to both research and policy audiences.

Beyond knowledge dissemination, the webinar series reinforced UAPS’s role as a convening and thought-leadership platform for population and development scholarship in Africa.

The sessions promoted interdisciplinary exchange, amplified African-led research and perspectives, encouraged South–South and North–South collaboration, and supported evidence-informed policymaking in areas such as climate adaptation, urban governance, reproductive health, and social protection.

Overall, the 2025 webinar programme made a substantive contribution to strengthening research–policy linkages, advancing critical dialogue, and positioning UAPS as a trusted hub for informed conversations on population dynamics, equity, and sustainable development across the continent.

## WEBINAR ENGAGEMENT STATISTICS

WEBINAR TITLE	DATE	DURATION (MIN)	REGIS-TRANTS	UNIQUE VIEWERS	TOTAL USERS	PEAK CON-CURRENT	ATTEN-DANCE RATE
Population and Environment Interactions: Computational Demography	Feb 20, 2025	118	178	99	221	76	56%
Homelessness in South Africa: Policy and Measurement	Apr 24, 2025	95	95	60	113	50	63%
Reproductive Rights, Demographic Change, and Social Equity	Sep 5, 2025	138	143	71	167	52	50%
People, Planet, and Policy: Population Dynamics and Climate Change	Sep 18, 2025	114	267	108	203	83	40%
Environmental Justice and Health in Africa	Nov 28, 2025	118	118	44	81	34	37%
TOTAL/AVERAGE		117 (avg)	801	382	785	61 (avg)	49% (avg)

# OBJECTIVE 3: PROMOTE DIALOGUE BETWEEN POPULATION AND

## A. UAPS AT INTERNATIONAL POPULATION CONFERENCE (IPC) 2025 - BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA



UAPS played a prominent role at IPC 2025, held in Brisbane from July 13-18, 2025. The conference, organised by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), attracted over 2,000 demographers and population scientists from 120 countries. UAPS participated in Session 167, a session dedicated to Regional Population Associations, and presented a paper titled “Demographic Challenges: Addressing Data Concerns.”

The IPC provided invaluable networking opportunities. UAPS leadership met with

presidents of sister associations, including PAA (Population Association of America), EAPS (European Association for Population Studies), and ALAP (Latin American Population Association), to discuss collaboration.

During the conference, UAPS convened a members meeting to strengthen the network and collaborative efforts among African population scholars. This gathering provided an important platform for UAPS members to connect, share experiences, and discuss the

## **B. UAPS SIDE EVENT “UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING ‘HIDDEN’ CONTRACEPTIVE DEMAND ACROSS AFRICA” AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY PLANNING (ICFP) 2025**



On November 5, 2025, the UAPS FP/SRHR Panel convened a high-profile session featuring leading African researchers, implementers, and youth advocates exploring often-overlooked dimensions of contraceptive demand.

The panel included Dr Estelle Monique Sidze (APHRC & UAPS FP/SRHR Panel Chair), Dr Dela Nai (Ibis Reproductive Health), Dr Yohannes Dibaba (APHRC), Dr Sheila Macharia (FP2030), and Goodness Ogeyi Odey (Global Health Focus & ICFP Youth Focal Point). Key discussions addressed persistent gaps in measuring family planning needs—despite substantial investment, over 50 million African women remain with unmet contraceptive needs—and called for stronger African leadership in refining family planning metrics.

Speakers emphasised the need for broader, rights-based approaches that capture non-pregnancy-related motivations for contraception, person-centred measurement that prioritises user preferences and experiences, expanded contraceptive options with attention to discontinuation reasons, and meaningful engagement with youth, particularly those under 16 whose needs remain largely invisible due to stigma and facility-avoidance. Dr Dibaba highlighted the potential of Health and Demographic Surveillance Sites (HDSS)

to provide timely, longitudinal data for tracking family planning trends.

### **OUTCOMES AND COMMITMENTS**

Participants described the session as insightful, timely, and highly relevant to Africa’s evolving FP/SRHR landscape, with particular appreciation for the diversity of perspectives from researchers to youth advocates. Following these rich discussions, the UAPS FP/SRHR Panel committed to developing a commentary summarising key insights for policymakers, launching a survey across the UAPS network to gather broader feedback on redefining contraceptive demand metrics, and pursuing a multi-stakeholder research agenda based on the session’s recommendations.

UAPS’s active presence at ICFP 2025 strengthened its position as a leader in shaping family planning discourse on the continent, demonstrating the organisation’s commitment to elevating African voices, advancing innovative research, and promoting equitable reproductive health solutions that reflect the realities and aspirations of African women, youth, and families.

### C. UAPS PANEL DISCUSSION ON YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS, PEACE AND SECURITY: AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON PARLIAMENT AND LEGISLATION (AFRIPAL) – UGANDA



In 2024, parliamentarians at the 9th African Population Conference (APC) in Lilongwe, Malawi, issued a declaration on population and development that emphasised youth across multiple thematic areas. One year on, the Inaugural Africa Regional Conference on Parliament and Legislation (AFRIPAL) provided a crucial platform to review progress on these commitments. UAPS, represented by its Southern Africa office, convened a panel on Youth Demographics, Peace and Security as a direct follow-up to the APC declaration.

The 90-minute session, moderated by Dr Lutendo Malisha (UAPS Southern Africa Representative), brought together legislators, practitioners, and development experts to examine African youth demographics in the global context, legislative frameworks for youth development and peacebuilding, parliamentary roles in financing youth-focused initiatives, drivers of youth vulnerability to violence and extremism, and effective youth empowerment programmes and partnerships.

Distinguished panellists included Hon. Imanga Wamunyima Jr from Zambia, who outlined the evolution of Zambia’s national youth policy (1994–2024) and the Youth Development Fund, emphasising the need for stronger monitoring, accountability, and civil society collaboration. Dr Fredrik Mugisha from UNDP highlighted that recruitment into violent groups often begins in childhood and stressed the importance of intergenerational approaches and family-level prevention strategies. Ms Edna Kanyesigye from Faraja Africa Foundation, Uganda, reflected on challenges in

youth livelihood programmes, particularly regarding accessibility, accountability, and rural inclusion, calling for reforms to improve financing mechanisms, transparency, and youth participation in budget processes.

Several critical themes emerged from the discussion. Whilst most African countries have adopted national youth policies, poor implementation, weak monitoring systems, and corruption continue to hinder meaningful impact. High unemployment, school dropout rates, substance abuse, and social exclusion make young people particularly susceptible to extremist recruitment. Limited and poorly monitored budget allocations further weaken youth peacebuilding initiatives. However, panellists identified significant opportunities through intergenerational approaches, civil society partnerships, and the strengthening of parliamentary youth caucuses.

The inaugural AFRIPAL conference attracted participants from several African countries, successfully bridging research, policy, legislation, and practice. For UAPS, participation yielded important lessons about the need to secure funding early for such engagements and the value of incorporating capacity-building workshops and exhibitions to maximise visibility and influence. AFRIPAL has emerged as a strategic platform for reviewing APC declarations and engaging parliamentarians on population and development issues, presenting an enduring opportunity for UAPS to strengthen engagement with African

# OBJECTIVE 4: FOSTER THE VISIBILITY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON AFRICA'S POPULATION

## A. JOURNAL OF AFRICAN POPULATION STUDIES (JAPS)

The Journal of African Population Studies (JAPS) continued to serve as UAPS's flagship peer-reviewed publication, advancing scholarship in population and development issues across Africa. In 2025, JAPS maintained active manuscript submission and editorial operations, processing submissions from researchers across Africa and beyond through rigorous peer review. The editorial team remained committed to maintaining

high scholarly standards while providing constructive feedback to authors, ensuring timely decision-making and quality control throughout the publication workflow. JAPS sustained its editorial operations, expanded its special issues pipeline, and strengthened engagement with its Editorial Board to enhance the journal's impact and sustainability.

## EDITORIAL BOARD COMPOSITION AND ENGAGEMENT

JAPS maintained a distinguished Editorial Board comprising leading scholars in demography, population studies, and related disciplines. During 2025, the editorial team conducted a reaffirmation exercise, requesting board members to confirm their continued service and commitment for the next two years. Nine Editorial Board members confirmed and reaffirmed their commitment, representing institutions across Africa, Europe, and North America:

### Confirmed Editorial Board Members (2025-2027)

- **Prof. Gervais Beninguise**, Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (IFORD), Cameroon
- **Dr. Andrew Jamali**, National Planning Commission
- **Dr. Melanie Katsivo**, Associate Director, The Africa Institute, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Specialist, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
- **Prof. Nkechi Srodah Owoo**, University of Ghana
- **Prof. Philippe Bocquier**, Université Catholique de Louvain
- **Prof. Bruno Masquelier**, Université Catholique de Louvain
- **Prof. Georges Reniers**, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)
- **Prof. Bruno Schoumaker**, Université Catholique de Louvain
- **Dr. Patience Afulani**, University of California, San Francisco

Throughout the year, board members were engaged via email communications related to manuscript reviews and other editorial service. On December 18, 2025, the first formal Editorial Board meeting was convened, where the Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Assistant presented comprehensive updates on journal operations, indexing efforts, and strategic priorities.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD MEETING

The December 2025 Editorial Board meeting generated important recommendations to strengthen JAPS’s operations and impact:

- **Enhanced Board Engagement:** Board members recommended more frequent engagement beyond the twice-yearly schedule, emphasizing the value of regular communication for strategic guidance and peer review support.
- **Article Processing Fee Review:** The Board expressed concern that the proposed US\$250 article processing fee may present barriers for students, particularly African students. They recommended revising the sustainability proposal to ensure accessibility while maintaining journal quality.
- **Reviewer Pool Expansion:** The Board recommended that authors who submit manuscripts to JAPS be encouraged to register as reviewers, thereby expanding the peer review capacity and fostering a culture of reciprocal scholarly service.
- **Journal Consolidation:** The Board recommended that UAPS maintain a single flagship journal. Specifically, they suggested closing the previous journal, African Population Studies (managed by Stellenbosch University Library), and transferring relevant content to JAPS to avoid fragmentation and strengthen UAPS’s publishing identity.
- **Template Simplification:** The Board recommended simplifying the JAPS manuscript template to reduce formatting barriers for authors and streamline the submission process.

SPECIAL ISSUE	GUEST EDITORS	EXPECTED PUBLICATION
<p><b>West Africa’s Population Issue</b></p> <p>Selected Papers from the 9th African Population Conference</p> <p>Papers received: 20</p>	<p>Prof. Akanni Akinyemi</p> <p>Dr. Bolarinwa Obasanjo</p>	<p>February 2026</p>
<p><b>Navigating the Future: Population, Policy, and Sustainability in Kenya</b></p> <p>Kenya Population and Development Conference (KPDC) 2025</p> <p>Papers submitted: 11</p>	<p>Dr. John Mushomi</p>	<p>March 2026</p>
<p><b>Gender and Demographic Change in Africa</b></p> <p>UAPS Gender Equality Panel Issue</p>	<p>Dr. Flora Yselle Mallah Kuete</p> <p>Prof. Lupwana Kandala</p> <p>Dr. Daniel Fiaveh</p>	<p>April 2026</p>

These special issues demonstrate JAPS's responsiveness to emerging research priorities and its role in disseminating conference proceedings and thematic scholarship. The West Africa Population Issue, drawing from the 9th African Population Conference, received 20 papers and represents continued collaboration

between JAPS and major UAPS convenings. The Kenya-focused issue reflects growing national and regional engagement with population policy challenges, while the Gender Equality Panel issue addresses a cross-cutting priority in demographic research and policy.



## STRATEGIC VALUE AND IMPACT

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JAPS continues to serve as UAPS's primary knowledge dissemination platform, bridging research and policy while providing African scholars with a high-quality outlet for population studies scholarship. The journal's commitment to peer review excellence, thematic relevance, and accessibility reinforces UAPS's leadership in advancing evidence-informed approaches to Africa's demographic challenges.

The Editorial Board's recommendations from the December 2025 meeting provide a strategic roadmap for enhancing JAPS's sustainability, expanding its reviewer base, and ensuring continued accessibility for early-career researchers and scholars from resource-constrained settings. The special issues pipeline demonstrates JAPS's agility in responding to emerging priorities while maintaining rigorous editorial standards.

Building on the progress made in 2025, JAPS will prioritize implementing the Editorial Board's recommendations, including increasing board engagement frequency, refining the sustainability model to balance accessibility and quality, expanding the peer reviewer pool, and simplifying submission processes.

The editorial team will also explore opportunities for enhanced indexing and visibility to strengthen JAPS's impact and reach within the global demographic research community. With three special issues scheduled for publication in early 2026, JAPS is positioned to continue its role as a vital platform for advancing African population scholarship and informing evidence-based policy and practice.

## **B. UAPS EXHIBITION BOOTH AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY PLANNING (ICFP) 2025 – BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA 25**

UAPS actively participated in the 2025 International Conference on Family Planning held in Bogotá, Colombia, between November 1 and 6, 2025, showcasing leadership in advancing evidence-based,

equity-focused family planning solutions for Africa through a strategic exhibition booth and a highly engaging side event.

### **UAPS Exhibition Booth**



UAPS mounted a vibrant and well-patronised exhibition booth throughout the conference week, serving as a strategic platform to raise awareness about UAPS programmes, research networks, and capacity-building initiatives; recruit new individual and institutional members from across the globe; and strengthen

collaboration opportunities with research institutions, universities, NGOs, and implementing partners. Many visitors expressed strong interest in partnering with UAPS on future projects, demonstrating the organisation's growing visibility and relevance in global population and development discourse.

## **C. AFRES-DATA EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS (ECR) FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT AND LINKEDIN COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES**

During the reporting year, UAPS strengthened its visibility and engagement with researchers, policymakers, and the wider public through a strategic Alumni Spotlight series and enhanced LinkedIn communication activities. Following the conclusion of the AfRes-Data Early Career Researchers Fellowship in 2024, UAPS launched the Alumni Spotlight in 2025

to showcase the continued progress and impact of fellowship alumni in enhancing population research capacity across Africa. These efforts maintained momentum in amplifying African-led research, promoted evidence use for policy and practice, and reinforced UAPS's position as the leading voice for population studies on the continent.

## AFRES-DATA ECR ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Following the successful conclusion of the AfRes-Data Early Career Fellowship in 2024, UAPS launched the Alumni Spotlight series in 2025 to showcase the continued progress and contributions of fellowship alumni in advancing population research across Africa.

The series served as a key knowledge translation and visibility tool, highlighting the work, insights, and achievements of these emerging African researchers as they apply their enhanced research capacities to address critical population and development challenges on the continent.

Through curated features shared on LinkedIn, the Alumni Spotlight amplified the ongoing impact of the fellowship by documenting how alumni are generating emerging evidence, applying innovative methodologies, and producing policy-relevant findings in population studies.

The series demonstrated the sustained value of investing in early-career African researchers and their evolving contributions to demographic science and evidence-informed policy. The series contributed to increased recognition of African-led population research and

supported cross-learning among UAPS members, fellowship alumni, and evidence users. Feedback from stakeholders indicated that the Spotlight series enhanced the accessibility and relevance of research outputs, particularly for non-academic audiences including policymakers, development practitioners, and civil society organizations working on population and development issues.

The features also strengthened the UAPS alumni network by maintaining engagement and fostering collaboration among fellowship cohorts.

## LINKEDIN COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

UAPS implemented a structured digital communication strategy on LinkedIn to expand organizational visibility, strengthen engagement with the African population studies community, and position UAPS as the authoritative voice for demographic research and policy dialogue on the continent.

The platform served as the primary channel for sharing alumni spotlights, research highlights, conference announcements, capacity-building opportunities, and partnership updates.

### LinkedIn Performance Summary (2025)

METRIC	PERFORMANCE
Total New Followers	1,717
Profile Visitors	877
Total Impressions	121,387
Unique Organic Impressions	65,002
Total Clicks	7,970
Total Reactions	2,546
Engagement Rate	31.49%

## TOP JOB FUNCTIONS

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The LinkedIn audience demonstrated strong representation from Africa, with top locations including Lilongwe (149 followers), Addis Ababa (125 followers), and Nairobi (122 followers). The follower base reflects diverse professional backgrounds aligned with AfRes-Data's mission:

### Top Job Functions

JOB FUNCTION	FOLLOWERS
Education	509
Research	473
Community and Social Services	249
Business Development	202
Operations	155

### Top Industries

INDUSTRY	FOLLOWERS
Higher Education	687
Non-profit Organizations	375
Research Services	301
Government Administration	201
Hospitals and Health Care	144

## VISIBILITY, LEARNING, AND STRATEGIC VALUE

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The combined Alumni Spotlight and LinkedIn communication activities significantly strengthened UAPS's visibility as the premier convening and knowledge-sharing platform for population studies in Africa.

By translating research into accessible narratives and highlighting the achievements of African scholars, UAPS enhanced the uptake of population evidence and supported informed dialogue among researchers, funders, policymakers, and development partners.

The total annual engagement rate of 31.49% for all post demonstrates strong audience interest and active participation.

This reflects the relevance and quality of UAPS content to its target audiences. Communication themes focused on research dissemination, capacity strengthening, conference and events promotion, partnerships, funding opportunities, and policy engagement across population and development issues.

These efforts contributed to improved organizational brand visibility and credibility, stronger connections

with early-career and established researchers across Africa, enhanced recognition of UAPS as a thought leader in population studies, and increased opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange within the African demographic research community.

## LOOKING AHEAD

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Building on the momentum achieved during the reporting year, UAPS will continue to refine and expand its LinkedIn communication strategy.

Planned enhancements include diversifying content formats through multimedia productions (video spotlights, research infographics, and animated data visualizations), deepening audience segmentation to tailor messaging for specific professional and geographic communities and strengthening analytics capabilities to inform data-driven communication approaches.

The Alumni Spotlight series will remain a flagship feature for amplifying African research leadership and population evidence for impact, with expanded focus on emerging scholars, policy-relevant research, and cross-continental collaboration in demographic studies.

# OBJECTIVE 5: OBJECTIVE 5: STRENGTHEN UAPS'S INSTITUTIONAL GROWTH AND

## A. STRATEGIC RELOCATION: UAPS SECRETARIAT MOVES TO INTERNATIONAL HOUSE, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

In May 2025, UAPS completed the relocation of its Secretariat offices from the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) to International House at the University of Ghana, Legon campus. This strategic move, carefully planned over six months, represents a significant institutional development.

### BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

While UAPS maintained strong collaborative ties with RIPS since its founding, the organisation's growth from a regional network to a pan-African institution with over 2,000 members necessitated enhanced operational independence and expanded facilities.

The decision to relocate was driven by several factors: the need for larger office space to accommodate growing staff and programs, and strategic positioning for greater institutional visibility.

The 85 square meter new office space at International House has significantly enhanced our operational capacity and professional environment. The facility features dedicated executive offices for the Executive Secretary and other staff alongside an open-plan workspace accommodating staff members with modern workstations.

The facility also has a robust IT infrastructure, including high-speed internet connectivity, a server room, and advanced digital communication systems that support our growing regional and international collaborations. The location offers excellent accessibility, with proximity to university facilities, research libraries, and accommodation options, making it convenient for visiting researchers, partners, and participants in our programs. The strategic location at International House has also enhanced UAPS's visibility within the University of Ghana community and facilitated new collaborations with other organisations housed in the complex.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

UAPS extends special appreciation to the Regional Institute for Population Studies for a decade of hosting and collaboration, to the University of Ghana administration for facilitating the new office arrangement, and to the International House management for their support in making the transition seamless.

## B. CALL FOR HOST COUNTRY: ACTIVITIES TOWARDS THE 10TH APC

As part of activities leading to the 10th African Population Conference (APC), the Union, on Dec 19, 2025, launched a call for proposals inviting national population associations, population-based organisations, government agencies, universities, and consortia of institutions to submit bids to host the 10th African Population Conference in 2028.

The African Population Conference serves as the Union's premier platform for fostering collaboration and sharing innovative ideas on population and development. Hosting APC 2028 presents a unique opportunity for institutions and countries to lead continental discourse on critical population issues and demonstrate their commitment to advancing evidence-based policy and research.

# CALL FOR HOST COUNTRY PROPOSALS

## HOST THE 10TH APC

The Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) invites national population associations, population-based organizations, government agencies, universities, or consortia of institutions to submit their proposals to host the prestigious 10th African Population Conference 2028; fostering collaboration and sharing innovative ideas on population and development across the continent.



## 10TH AFRICAN POPULATION CONFERENCE

Join us in shaping **Africa's future** by supporting **this essential initiative** and **submitting your proposal today!**

**Proposal Due Date:** 31st March 2026.

Send your proposals to  
[jacques.emina@gmail.com](mailto:jacques.emina@gmail.com) copy  
[ltgutabarwa@uaps-uepa.org](mailto:ltgutabarwa@uaps-uepa.org)

## **B. ORGANISATIONAL CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

### **KEY CHALLENGES**

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However, 2025 also tested our resilience and adaptability as an organisation. Global funding constraints significantly impacted our operations, creating uncertainty around program sustainability and forcing difficult decisions about program prioritisation and resource allocation. The loss of sustained funding for initiatives like AfRes-Data required us to explore innovative sustainability models and diversify our revenue streams.

The organisation faced the additional challenge of managing office relocation costs, including lease negotiations, equipment transfer, and setup expenses, all while ensuring minimal disruption to ongoing programs and maintaining the quality of services delivered to our members and stakeholders. Staff capacity was stretched as we worked to balance core programmatic activities with administrative demands, and we experienced delays in some planned initiatives due to resource limitations.

These challenges, while substantial, have sharpened our strategic focus and reinforced the necessity of building a more financially sustainable and operationally resilient organization.

### **STRATEGIC RESPONSES AND INNOVATION**

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Yet through strategic partnerships, cost-optimisation measures, and innovative solutions, we not only sustained our impact but also strengthened our operational foundation for future growth. By leveraging opportunities available to non-profit organisations through platforms like Goodstack, we successfully got approval for Google Workspace for non-profit and are currently transitioning, providing enhanced email services, cloud storage, and collaborative tools for the entire team.

We secured Zoom for Nonprofits, enabling us to continue hosting high-quality webinars, virtual meetings, and training sessions without incurring commercial licensing costs. We also accessed Canva

for Nonprofits, empowering our communications team to create professional graphics, social media content, and marketing materials in-house rather than outsourcing design work. These digital tools collectively enhanced our operational efficiency, streamlined internal and external collaboration, improved our professional communications output, and enabled us to do significantly more with available resources while reducing operational costs.

### **LESSONS LEARNED**

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This challenging period reinforced several critical lessons: the importance of building diverse revenue streams to reduce dependency on single funding sources; the value of maintaining flexible program designs that can be scaled according to available resources; the necessity of investing in digital infrastructure that increases long-term efficiency; and the power of the global non-profit ecosystem in supporting organisations through difficult transitions.

These experiences have informed our strategic planning for 2026 and beyond, positioning UAPS to be more resilient and adaptive in an increasingly uncertain funding environment.

### **STRATEGIC VISION FOR FUTURE GROWTH**

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Looking ahead, UAPS will pursue a three-pronged strategy centered on sustainability, capacity, and impact. First, we will aggressively diversify our funding base by cultivating relationships with multilateral development partners, exploring membership fee structures that balance accessibility with revenue generation, and enhance our capacity building services that leverage our training and research expertise. Our goal is to reduce dependence on any single funding source while ensuring that financial considerations never compromise our commitment to supporting early-career African researchers.

Second, the CRM platform launched in 2025 is just the beginning and we envision an integrated digital ecosystem that supports seamless collaboration, tracks

research outputs, facilitates peer networking, and will emphasize accessibility and multi-format dissemination, ensuring that African research reaches those who can translate it into action.

## GRATITUDE AND PARTNERSHIP

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None of our achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support of our partners and stakeholders. We extend our deepest appreciation to the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) for hosting the UAPS Secretariat pro bono for a decade, University of Ghana for welcoming the UAPS Secretariat to International House and providing institutional support during our transition.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and the P3 Africa initiative for their exceptional collaboration, partnership, and financial support, which enabled the continuation of the AIR Grant Cohort and sustained our capacity-building mission during a challenging funding environment.

We are grateful to our thematic panel chairs, editorial board members, webinar facilitators, and conference partners who volunteer their expertise and time to advance UAPS's mission. Our member institutions, individual researchers, and students across Africa embody the spirit of intellectual curiosity and commitment to evidence-based development that defines our community.

To the governments, development organizations, and academic institutions that have supported our events

and initiatives, thank you for recognizing the critical importance of demographic research in shaping Africa's future.

Special recognition is due to the UAPS Secretariat staff who navigated organizational transitions, funding uncertainties, and operational complexities with professionalism and dedication. Their commitment to excellence ensures that UAPS remains a trusted and effective platform for population scholarship.

## A CALL TO ACTION

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As we close 2025 and look toward 2026, we invite all members of the UAPS community to actively engage in shaping our collective future, participate in our thematic panels, submit research to JAPS, mentor early-career scholars, advocate for evidence-informed policy, and champion the value of African-led demographic research in your networks. UAPS is not merely an organization, it is a movement of scholars, practitioners, and policymakers committed to harnessing population and health science for Africa's sustainable development.

The challenges we face are real, but so is our potential. With strategic focus, collaborative spirit, and unwavering commitment to our mission, UAPS will emerge from this period stronger, more sustainable, and more impactful than ever before. Together, we will ensure that African voices, African perspectives, and African evidence shape the global discourse on population and development.

In solidarity and service,

### **Professor Nyovani Madise**

President  
Union for African Population Studies (UAPS)

### **Louange Gtutabarwa**

Executive Secretary  
Union for African Population Studies (UAPS)



Union for African Population Studies  
Union pour l'Étude de la Population Africaine

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