



AFIDEP

African Institute for
Development Policy

Pathways to Institutionalise a Culture of Evidence Use

2019 Annual Report

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Message from the Executive Director

2019 was a good year for AFIDEP. Among our many feats, we developed Strategy 2024. The roll out of our new Strategy, in 2020, will coincide with a significant milestone of our institution, our 10th anniversary.

AFIDEP is also increasingly recognised as the go-to research and policy institute, striving towards an Africa where evidence is consistently used to transform lives.

Our work, supporting governments in evidence-informed decision-making on the demographic dividend, went a notch higher with the Botswana and Kenya governments-initiated efforts towards translating their commitments to harness the demographic dividend into action. Lessons from these initiatives will inform Africa-wide efforts and demand for tools and methodologies to enable countries move from rhetoric to putting their demographic dividend commitments to action.

We made considerable progress in optimizing capacity for evidence use in government. The WHO-funded initiative aimed at heightening institutional capacity for government use of health research in Kenya, Malawi and Uganda will reinforce our expertise in strengthening institutional culture and systems

needed to ensure consistent use of evidence in policy formulation and implementation.

We expanded our work to develop the critical mass of evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) champions, by partnering with the African Academy of Sciences to train and create awareness on EIDM among top African scholars. We also continued our partnership with the Population Reference Bureau to develop the next generation of leaders from the developing world who will shape evidence-informed policy in their countries, regionally and globally. The targeted Policy Fellows are advanced PhD students who learn, firsthand, local advocacy priorities and policy landscapes and how to tailor their research messages to relevant policy audiences.

AFIDEP strengthened its partnership with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and now has six joint projects where we strengthen the capacity of research teams in promoting research uptake and policy engagement on a wide range of critical, but often overlooked health issues like lung health, sepsis, antimicrobial resistance, and vector control.

Our work in the Malawi Parliament and through the Network of African Parliamentary Committees for Health has reinforced our

impact in strengthening evidence-informed governance and accountability. We will build on the progress made in enabling the Malawi Parliament pass a milestone report on the autonomy and independence of parliament in 2018 and support them develop laws and standing orders to affirm their legal and operational autonomy.

AFIDEP staff made valuable contributions to policy formulation processes and academic conferences. We played key roles in preparing for and during the Nairobi ICPD25 summit, including facilitating the development of ICPD25 commitments for Malawi. AFIDEP also led the scientific committee for the 8th African Population Conference, featuring in 17 sessions. I congratulate and convey best wishes to our Director of Research and Development Policy and Head of the Malawi office, Nyovani Madise for her election as the Vice President of the Union of African Population Studies. She will become President of the Union in 2023.

Our Communications work went a notch higher, producing quality publications, facilitating proactive engagement with

policy-makers and the media, and redesigning our website. We bolstered our expertise by hiring well-qualified and experienced staff, and we streamlined our human resource portfolio. We trained staff in rapid evidence synthesis and supported various individuals to attend professional training courses. Our finance and administration teams streamlined our policies and financial management systems, ensuring that the Institute provides a good working environment and is fully accountable to its funders. The progress we made in 2019 was possible through the exceptional dedication of AFIDEP staff members and the valuable strategic advice and direction from our Board. I also thank our funders, partners and clients for supporting our dream to make evidence matter in transforming lives in Africa.

Our priorities in 2020 will center on rolling out our 2020-2024 Strategic plan, ensuring that the Institute optimises the internal expertise and systems, financial resource base, and partnerships that we need to achieve the overall goal of the strategy – institutionalising a culture of evidence-informed public policy formulation and implementation in Africa.

Eliya Zulu

“AFIDEP is also increasingly recognised as the go-to research and policy institute, striving towards an Africa where evidence is consistently used to transform lives.

**Dr. Eliya Zulu
Executive Director, AFIDEP**

”

AFIDEP 2019 in Numbers

48

Staff

28

Projects

22

Publications

58

Funders & Partners

122Parliament
staff trained**54**Researchers
trained**46**Public
discourses**75**Media
Trained**90**

Media appearances

AFIDEP

AFIDEP in Brief

The African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) is an African-led, regional non-profit policy think tank established in 2010 to help bridge the gaps between research, policy and practice in development efforts in Africa.

AFIDEP is registered as a Non-Governmental Organisation in Kenya and Malawi and as a non-profit institution in the USA, with 501 (c)3 status. We seek to contribute to the realization of the SDGs and other development strategies by enabling the use of evidence in the formulation of development policies and programmes.

To do this, we undertake activities in three areas:

1. enabling governments and other stakeholders to address individual, institutional and systemic barriers to evidence use in decision-making;
2. translating evidence and proactively promoting its uptake in decision-making; and
3. strengthening the capacity of researchers and knowledge intermediaries in evidence translation and policy engagement, and advancing learning and networking among evidence-informed decision-making experts across Africa.

Our five priority focus areas:

1. Population Dynamics and Demographic Dividend
2. Health and Wellbeing
3. Transformative Education and Skills Development
4. The Environment and Climate Change
5. Governance and Accountability.

The Institute is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of distinguished experts, who provide strategic guidance and institutional oversight.

VISION

An Africa where evidence is used consistently to transform lives

MISSION

We enable the use of evidence in the design and implementation of development policies and programmes

VALUES

- Accountability:** we are accountable and transparent.
- Focus:** we are focused and objective in our work.
- Integrity:** we strive to do right and do what we say we will do
- Diversity:** we value diverse opinions and inclusivity
- Excellence:** we continuously strive for excellence
- Passion:** we are passionate about our work





1

**Ending A Season,
Stepping Into
A New Dawn!**

Evidence to Accelerate the SDGs: AFIDEP's Strategy 2024

2019 marked the end of our current strategic plan 2015-2019. We have realized notable achievements during this period as captured in diagram 1 (next page). By the end of the year we launched our new 2020-2024 Strategy to guide our work for the next five years.

AFIDEP's vision for Africa over the next five years is to promote a shift from a culture of low evidence use in decision-making, to a setting where policy and programme actors actively seek and routinely use evidence so that the right investments are made towards the transformation of people's lives. The new strategy consolidates the work we started under the previous plan (2015-2019), where we supported the use of evidence in policymaking in the public sector. We will deepen and strengthen this support to African governments for them to achieve their set SDGs targets by developing capacity and providing the evidence and technical assistance they need to make better policy and programme decisions, and track performance.

The five priority areas are:

1. Population dynamics and the demographic dividend;
2. Health and well-being;
3. Transformative education and skills development;
4. The environment and climate change; and
5. Governance and accountability.

Gender equity is a cross-cutting theme where our work will contribute to accelerating gender equality, removing barriers for female participation in all spheres of life, and improving health and economic outcomes for girls, boys, men, and women.

Our main objectives will be to:

- i) Strengthen capacity for consistent evidence use for decision-making; and
- ii) Provide research evidence and technical assistance to governments and development partners to accelerate achievement of the SDGs.

AFIDEP's Strategy 2024 was launched on 6 December 2019 in Lilongwe, Malawi. The launch was graced by senior government officials, representatives of development partner agencies, representatives of partner institutions, AFIDEP Board of Directors and staff. The First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Malawi, Hon. Madalitso Kazombo noted that the strategy would contribute towards enhancing government of Malawi's efforts in tackling the country's development challenges. "We cannot make policies and programmes without evidence on what should be our priorities and where resources should be allocated," he said.

At AFIDEP, we believe that countries will not make meaningful progress towards the 2030 SDG targets if they do not prioritise evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) in their development investments, programming, and performance tracking and improvement. Therefore, AFIDEP will, for the next 5 years, dedicate resources and expertise to assist governments ensure that evidence is used consistently at all levels of decision-making.

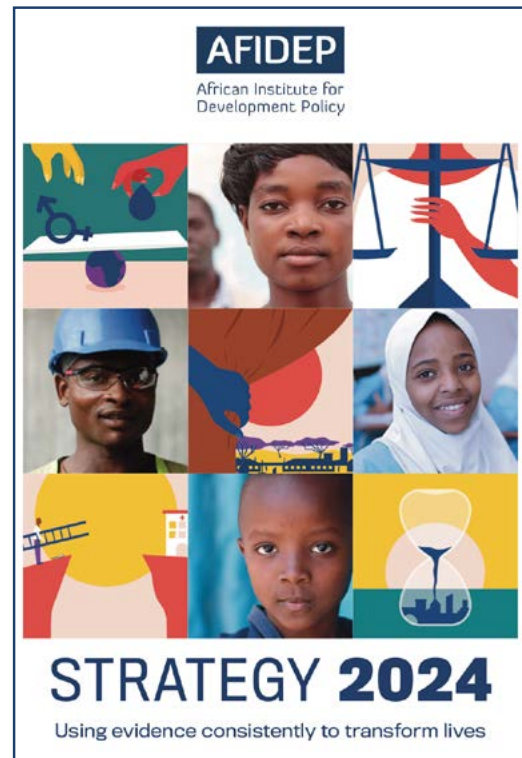


Diagram 1: Impact and Achievements 2015 - 2019


Malawi commits to ending child marriage

The Malawi Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare committed to ending child marriages by 2027 following our engagement at the 2017 Gender Policy Dialogue.


15: Number of countries that have adopted DD

Fifteen countries adopted the DD reports developed by AFIDEP and seven (Botswana, Kenya Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia) have incorporated the recommendations into their medium-term or long-term development strategies.


UK Government prioritises population in their Africa Strategy

The UK Government included "population" as a priority area in its strategy for Africa, prompted by AFIDEP's study on Regional Analysis of Youth Demographics in East Africa and presentations on Africa's population growth trajectories.


Evidence use guidelines adopted by Ministries of Health

Guidelines for evidence use prepared by AFIDEP for the Ministries of Health and Parliaments of Kenya and Malawi are now widely in use. The first Africa Evidence Leadership award holder, the Head of the Research Department in the Malawi Parliament, was trained by AFIDEP.


Enhancing Health Accountability Systems

AFIDEP supported Kenya's Ministry of Health to develop and scale up a data reporting tool that enables it to do disaggregated reporting of the reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) service use for adolescents aged 10-14 and 15-19 at national and county levels. Further, AFIDEP supported the Ministry of Health in training county level health officials on evidence informed decision making, how to operationalize the RMNCAH scorecard, and automated production of the scorecard directly from the District Health Information System.


500: Number of policymakers trained on evidence use

AFIDEP trained over 200 policymakers and researchers from Africa, Asia and Europe in EIDM. AFIDEP also trained over 300 government officials in 13 countries to develop and interpret policy scenario modelling for the demographic dividend.


Demographic Dividend African Union's 2017 theme

The African Union's meeting of Heads of State in 2017 adopted the theme, *Harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth*, following AFIDEP's work on DD and support to the African Union, through the Office of the President of Malawi.


Enhancing the roles of African Parliaments

Malawi's Parliament adopted a report prepared by the Parliamentary Services Commission and the Parliamentary Legal Affairs Committee, with technical support from AFIDEP, to enhance its administrative and legal autonomy in discharging its duties.



2

**Supporting
decision-makers
to translate
their policy
commitments
into action**

Harnessing the demographic dividend: Botswana and Kenya governments move to action

Translating political and policy commitments into investments, programmes, and service provision is a critical step for governments in their development efforts. In 2019, the Botswana and Kenya governments took this critical step when they initiated efforts that will translate their commitments to harnessing the demographic dividend (DD) into action. These initiatives brought to fruition our efforts and support to these countries in the last four years that saw them incorporate population dynamics in their long-term policy and medium-term plans.



In Botswana, this initiative is fully funded by the government, with AFIDEP supporting the process to mainstream the DD through a National Delivery System for Performance Monitoring and Accountability. This intervention spotlights the pivotal role of various players, including collaborations involving the government and the private sector in realizing

AFIDEP continues to provide follow-up support to the 13 African countries it has worked with to conceptualise and develop their demographic dividend roadmaps

the DD. AFIDEP is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFED) in the design and implementation of the DD programme.

In Kenya, the government is moving to implement its DD roadmap through introducing a DD strand in the County and National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Systems (NIMES). This will include the 4 pillars of the DD framework namely: health (particularly family planning and reproductive health), education and skills training, employment, and governance. The initiative is being piloted in two counties in order to draw lessons on how local governments can integrate the DD and efficiently use existing data systems and structures for decision making. Lessons from the pilot will be disseminated to national and county level officials to inform scale-up efforts. AFIDEP is providing technical assistance to three government agencies spearheading this work, namely, the Monitoring and Evaluation Department (MED) who run the NIMES system, the National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), and Council of Governors (CoG).

AFIDEP continued to provide follow-up support to the 13 African countries it has worked with in the last five years to conceptualise and develop their DD roadmaps. For most of these countries, the gap is largely in operationalising the DD. According to Dr. Bernard Onyango, Senior Research Policy Analyst who leads AFIDEP's work on Demographic dividend, the leadership of Botswana and Kenya in "walking the talk" as far as harnessing the DD is concerned is not only a motivation for other African countries, but also an opportunity to provide lessons for other countries' efforts.

Informing the conversations and driving commitments

On 12-14 November 2019, world leaders convened in Nairobi Kenya to mark 25 years since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) that took place in Cairo Egypt in 1994. At this conference, 179 governments adopted a Programme of Action, recognising that reproductive health, women's empowerment and gender equality are the pathway to sustainable development. With the theme, *Accelerating the promise*, the ICPD 25 Nairobi summit took stock of achievements and the unfinished business, and renewed the vision and commitments to advance efforts to deal with persisting and emerging challenges. The conference mobilised political will and financial commitments from governments and various development actors on the ICPD Programme of Action.

Ahead of this high-level conference, AFIDEP conducted various strategic engagements with governments and key stakeholders at national, regional and international levels to provide evidence needed to determine priority issues and interventions for the ICPD25 discussions and framework. Some of the key strategic engagements are highlighted in articles below.

**...reproductive health,
women's empowerment
and gender equality are
the pathway to sustainable
development.**



Dr. Eliya Zulu, Executive Director at AFIDEP (right) with Senior Chief Inkosi Kachindamoto – Malawi and Dr. Thomas Munthali, Director General of Malawi National Planning Commission (NPC) (left) at ICPD25

AFIDEP facilitates Malawi's commitment to women health and ending child marriages

At the ICPD25 Nairobi Summit, the Government of Malawi submitted a number of commitments, including to eliminate marriage under age 18 and increase the health budget allocated to reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health from 8% in 2019 to 30% by 2030.



Professor Nyovani Madise, Director of Research and Development Policy and Head of the Malawi office at AFIDEP (with mic) addressing media and attendees during the National Symposium on Population and Development facilitated by AFIDEP in Lilongwe, Malawi.

The process of defining these commitments was facilitated by AFIDEP through a National Symposium on Population and Development on 30 October 2019 in Lilongwe, Malawi.

The commitments were discussed and endorsed by stakeholders representing various disciplines and sectors including government, academics, civil society organisations (CSOs), and development partners.

AFIDEP provided evidence that informed other commitments including the country's 2030 targets to:

- Reduce maternal mortality by 75% (from 439 to 110).
- Provide 12 years of free education to every child in efforts to instigate a rise in rates of secondary school enrolment to 100% from the current level of 18%.
- Provide youth-friendly SRH services and reduce the unmet contraceptive need for unmarried young people to below 11% (from 52%).

“As AFIDEP, we synthesised the evidence available on Malawian population dynamics and brought to the forefront the areas that were behind the “unfinished agenda,”

Professor Nyovani Madise
AFIDEP's Director of Development Policy
and Head of Malawi Office.

”

A national policy dialogue on teenage pregnancies in Kenya



Participants engage panelists during the national teenage pregnancy dialogue convened by AFIDEP and UNFPA in Nairobi, Kenya.

On 16 May 2019, AFIDEP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) convened a national policy dialogue on curbing the rising cases of teenage pregnancies in Kenya. The forum was attended by 70 participants from the government, development partners, the youth, academia, think-tanks, civil society, faith-based organisations, and the media.

The policy dialogue arrived at six key recommendations that call for a shift in the ongoing approaches and interventions in order to decisively end the problem of teen pregnancies. These recommendations, which are also contained in this [Call to Action](#). Tackling Teen Pregnancy in Kenya, include:

- Youth Voices: Nothing for us without us
- There's a need for age-appropriate sexuality education
- Parents should be encouraged and empowered to engage teenagers on sexuality matters
- Allocate resources to implement sexual and reproductive health interventions
- Adopt a coordinated multi-sectoral approach
- Use evidence, adopt and leverage innovations

“ The problem is we have a lot of uncoordinated players with different interests therefore pulling the same policy in different directions. If we can have a coordinating body that can offer guidelines it would help with implementation.

Zipporah Konga
Representative, Ministry of Public Service,
Kenya ”

“ We need to emphasis the value of education and services for adolescents and to intensify conversations like this to address the issue of teen pregnancies. Health and education really goes together and I think you have to focus on the education to get more out of health as well.

Elin Rognlie
Ambassador-
Norwegian Embassy, Nairobi ”

“ Does that young person even know of the policies we're talking about? They're shelved, and yet they were made for her so that she knows that Youth Friendly Services (YFS) is her right; it's not a favour from the government. Most of the time when we talk to each other about these things, we leave the beneficiary out of it, and that's why they find their own way of addressing these policy issues.

Linnet Ouma
International Youth Alliance
for Family Planning ”

Supporting Africa's parliamentary committees for health determine ICPD25 priorities

AFIDEP with Partners in Population and Development-Africa Regional Office (PPD-ARO) and others brought together Members of Parliament (MPs) who serve on parliamentary committees of health from 22 countries across Africa, and other stakeholders at Munyonyo, Uganda between 30-31 October 2019 for the 11 Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) meeting.

The major focus of the 2019 meeting was to generate commitments of African parliaments to the realization of the ICPD agenda ahead of the ICPD25 convening in Nairobi. The theme of the meeting was: *Building the capacity of African policymakers for enhanced implementation of ICPD Programme of Action and improved reproductive health outcomes: Challenges and Opportunities.*



AFIDEP's Director of Public Policy and Communications, Dr. Rose Oronje decried the high prevalence of teen pregnancies in many African countries and called on MPs to contribute to ending the problem, by among others advocating for the understanding of and support for teen sexuality programmes, including comprehensive sexuality education in schools and supporting laws, policies and programmes that enable more girls to stay in school.

Dr. Bernard Onyango, Senior Research and Policy Analyst at AFIDEP, discussed priority for governments to harness the African Union's Demographic Dividend agenda as one way to accelerate implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) and achieve the SDGs at country level. He urged the MPs to legislate where necessary, and to use existing laws and policies in fulfilling the promises of the ICPD PoA; build coalitions; and advocate for a data revolution for evidence-informed decision-making.



NEAPACOH convenes annually to discuss progress on the commitments of African parliaments to tackling urgent health issues in their countries as well as to set new commitments informed by emerging evidence.



Promoting south-south cooperation to harness the demographic dividend

On 4 September 2019, AFIDEP's Executive Director, Dr. Eliya Zulu, was a keynote speaker at the 16th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on Population and Development in Tunis, Tunisia. He talked about *South-South Cooperation for Harnessing Demographic Dividend for Achieving the ICPD Programme of Action (POA) and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals 2030*.

The Conference deliberated on how the South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) can maximise and leverage the health and demographic outcomes; contribute to addressing emerging population issues; and realize global commitment for accelerated implementation of the 1994 ICPD Programme of Action and the SDGs Agenda.

The high-level meeting was attended by Ministers, senior government officials, international development partners, eminent scientists, scholars, academics and subject experts. The outcome formed the basis of a background document for reflection at the ICPD25 Nairobi Summit.

Charting the demographic future for middle-income countries in Africa

In the lead up to ICPD25, AFIDEP's Senior Research and Policy Analyst, Dr. Bernard Onyango, participated in a dialogue entitled, *What's Changed in Middle-Income Countries in Southern Africa?* on 11 September 2019 in Namibia. The First Lady of the Republic of Namibia, Monica Geingos, joined stakeholders in reflecting on the last 25 years, future opportunities, as well as challenges in driving the population and development agenda.

According to Dr. Bernard Onyango, the meeting focused on the experience of five countries (Mauritius, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, eSwatini) and one high-income country (Seychelles). These countries face varied but unique population and development challenges from the rest of sub-Saharan Africa.

"On average, they are more advanced in their demographic transition, with total fertility ranging from 1.5 in Mauritius to 3.6 in Namibia. As a result, some of the countries are at an advanced stage to capitalise on having a large working-age population relative to a dependent population and hence harness the demographic dividend. For example, 7 out of 10 people in Mauritius are of working age," says Dr. Onyango.

He, however, notes that Southern Africa countries, such as South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, and eSwatini, have very high unemployment rates. This undermines the promise that a large youthful workforce could lead to significant demographic dividends. Further, with the exception of Mauritius, the rest of these countries suffer from high levels of inequality and sluggish economic growth in the last decade.

AFIDEP has supported governments of Namibia, Botswana, and eSwatini in developing their demographic dividend profiles and road maps.

Enhancing regional leadership in Africa's population and development agenda

The UN Economic Commission for Africa, Government of Kenya, AFIDEP and the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) supported by the Department of Social Affairs of the African Union Commission, convened a regional policy dialogue to discuss emerging challenges and key considerations for the future of population and development in Africa.

The dialogue examined five crucial challenges that have emerged since 1994 as critical concerns to Africa's links between population and development. These are: the growing salience of urban slums as a hallmark of Africa's urbanisation; climate change; a rapidly growing population of people over age 60; international migration and displacement; and the task of creating the conditions needed to yield a demographic dividend.

A key outcome of the dialogue was an agreement to develop a framework through which the African Union Commission and UN Economic Commission for Africa would lead engagement on these issues.



A Board Member from AFIDEP Professor Sosten Chiotha, (standing right), led discussions on climate change at the pre-ICPD25 regional policy dialogue

Country lessons and challenges of accessing data for local development

During the ICPD25 event in Nairobi, Dr. Bernard Onyango, Senior Research and Policy Analyst at AFIDEP moderated a session that explored strategies and efforts by countries to generate and use sub-national data for development planning at sub-national levels.

The panelists were Mr. Saitoti Torome, Permanent Secretary, State Department of National Treasury and Planning in Kenya; Mr. Charles Banda, Director, Department of Population Development in the Ministry of National Development Planning in Zambia; and Professor Alfred Agwanda, Associate Professor at the Population Studies and Research Institute at the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr. Saitoti Torome highlighted challenges in getting lowest level data collection is periodic and expensive. However, the country collects complimentary surveys such as the comprehensive household budget surveys that help to determine poverty levels that inform development of an equalisation fund to is given to marginalised regions.

Mr. Charles Banda presented the Zambia case study which used a multidimensional poverty index. The analysis gives a clear picture of counties most affected and therefore informs where interventions are needed to reduce inequalities.

2019 African Development Perspectives

With the theme: *25 years after Cairo: Accelerating Africa's promise*, the latest issue of our flagship publication, the *African Development Perspectives* highlighted key evidence on issues of importance at the ICPD25 Nairobi summit.

Key insights from the issue included:

- Ending child marriage is imperative as it remains a key development challenge in African countries such as Malawi. In Malawi, tremendous progress in recent years has been made towards ending child marriage, however legal, economic and cultural factors continue to promote this vice.
- Despite several risks and disadvantages of teenage pregnancy, very early adolescent motherhood remains to be a hidden problem that has failed to gain the attention it deserves. As such, there is pressing need to develop sexual health interventions tailored to the needs of younger adolescents.
- The ICPD Program of Action remains an unfinished agenda 25 years on. Although there is notable progress in the provision of sexual and reproductive health services, indicators are quality of care and fertility rates are not going in the desired direction fast enough.
- Realizing the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action in its entirety calls for actors to address and prioritise the sexual and reproductive health needs of women with disabilities through appropriate policies and programmes.



Shaping scientific discourse on the future of Africa's population dynamics

AFIDEP hosted and chaired the Union of African Population Studies 8th APC scientific committee. Our staff facilitated and actively participated in 17 sessions.



Dr. Rose Oronje, Director of Public Policy and Communications at AFIDEP leads a session in the Policy Communication Workshop at the 8th African Population Conference.

Winning Poster: Claire Jensen, Research and Policy Associate at AFIDEP, was among poster winners at the 8th APC. Her poster presented findings on drivers and solutions for teenage pregnancies in Malawi. She said, "having your abstract accepted as a poster presentation may not be considered as high profile as an oral presentation, however, I found presenting posters at the conference to be an extremely valuable experience."

“ I gained experience presenting my findings and fielding questions, and a sense of what people found most interesting about my findings. I met other researchers at various stages in their careers working on teen pregnancy and sexual and reproductive health in other settings, and had rich discussions about similarities and differences, as well as policy solutions. Claire Jensen says.

Claire Jensen
Research and policy
Associate at AFIDEP

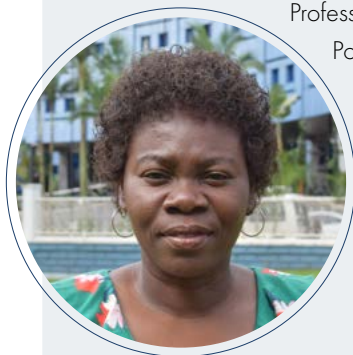
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Claire Jensen, Research and Policy Associate at AFIDEP discusses her poster on drivers and solutions for teenage pregnancies in Malawi with attendees during the 8th African Population Conference in Uganda.

AFIDEP's Nyovani Madise new Vice President of Union for African Population Studies

Professor Nyovani Madise, AFIDEP's Director of Development Policy and Head of Malawi office, is the new Vice President (VP) of the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS), a regional scientific body that generates evidence on population and its application for development planning in Africa.



Professor Madise was elected to be part of the Union's leadership during its 8th convening of the African Population Conference (APC) held in Entebbe, Uganda, 18-22 November, 2019. She will hold this position for the next four years, and according to the UAPS' constitution, this position gives her direct nomination to become the next President of the Union for another four years after her tenure as the VP. Professor Madise says she will join together with other elected leaders and experts in the field of demography and population studies, steer the Union's efforts to reinforce partnerships, mentor upcoming demographers on the continent, and put population at the centre of Africa's development efforts.



Professor Nyovani Madise, Director of Research and Development Policy and Head of the Malawi office at AFIDEP (far left) with other newly elected officials at the 8th African Population Conference in Uganda.



A woman in a white shirt and patterned skirt is leaning over to hold the hand of a young child in a rural setting. The woman is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The child is looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred green landscape under a blue sky. A large white number '3' is overlaid on a dark blue square in the upper right corner of the image.

3

**Translating
evidence to improve
health systems and
service provision**

Institutionalising evidence use in the health sector in Kenya, Malawi and Uganda

While experts agree that Africa's development efforts will be more effective when governments adopt a culture of evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM), many governments are not taking the key actions needed to enable a culture of evidence use.



Some of the participants engaging in group exercises during a HIGH-Res partners meeting in 2019 Nairobi, Kenya.

AFIDEP, in 2019, partnered with the ministries of health and research institutions in Kenya, Malawi and Uganda to design and implement interventions aimed at strengthening institutional structures, systems, processes and procedures needed to promote, nurture, and enable an evidence use culture in decision-making in the health sector. The initiative, known as the Heightening Institutional Capacity for Government use of Health Research (HIGH-Res), is a three-year project funded by the WHO's Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (AHPSR) and the Wellcome Trust.

The initiative's leader at AFIDEP, Dr. Rose Oronje says, "TWGs (technical working groups), for instance, are important structures through which the ministries of health convene partners to discuss and provide technical inputs and recommendations that management units consider when making policy and programme decisions. The project is working with the ministries to strengthen TWG capacities for evidence review and synthesis, as well as, facilitate critical conversations and review processes for improving the functionality of TWGs so that the inputs and recommendations they provide to higher-level decision-makers at the ministries is based on sound evidence."

According to Dr. Oronje, other interventions key to institutionalizing EIDM in government health systems include: embedding platforms for regular interactions of policymakers and researchers into routine processes of the ministries and research institutions; incorporating EIDM training and trainings in systematic review and synthesis of research into existing training programmes for health professionals and other civil servants; and embedding EIDM incentives and innovations into the ministries' systems and structures.

Using evidence to generate commitment for tackling critical, but neglected health issues

Consider these facts on four health issues that are not top on the agenda of many African governments - with an estimated 30 million cases each year of which 7 million are fatal: sepsis, a life-threatening condition caused by the body's toxic response to infection, is ranked by WHO as the second biggest cause of death in the world. Lung health conditions such as TB, lung cancer, and asthma are among the leading causes of death and disability in the world. Globally, an estimated 1 billion people suffer from acute and chronic respiratory problems, contributing to 4 million deaths worldwide. Tuberculosis (TB) for example, is one of the leading causes of death with 1.5 million deaths recorded in 2018 alone, one-quarter of which were in Africa.

The burden of vector-borne diseases is highest in Africa with malaria, the leading vector-borne disease, causing more than 400,000 deaths annually. And, the increase in the number of cases developing resistance to antibiotics pose a serious threat to public health and ranks antimicrobial resistance as one of the biggest health concerns of our time. Since 2016, AFIDEP has been partnering with various research consortia at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) to ensure that the research being generated by the consortia plays a central role in government decision-making on these often neglected health issues.

Diagram 2: A comic strip explaining the concept of antimicrobial resistance



In 2019, AFIDEP adopted various approaches to enhance policy engagement and communication of the research work in the LSTM consortiums. These include:

- Trained 30 lung health researchers in policy engagement, science communications, and research uptake.
- Supported the researchers (trained above) to develop and implement national stakeholder and policy engagement strategies in collaboration with local lung health/TB researchers. In Kenya, one of the candidates, Brenda Mungai, facilitated a dialogue with key stakeholders including Ministry of Health, TB and Lung Disease county officers to strategize direction for national engagement. In Malawi, Martin Njoroge, has been engaging with district health policymakers and medical officers to generate buy-in for his research on the health and economic cost of non-communicable respiratory diseases in Malawi and effective interventions to reduce this burden.
- Conducted stakeholder interviews with policymakers and other key stakeholders to identify knowledge gaps and have their views incorporated into the research agendas.
- Raised awareness about sepsis among the public through a local radio programme in Malawi, producing fact sheets and disseminating information through various channels including social media.
- To commemorate antibiotic awareness week on 20 November 2019, AFIDEP joined the Malawi Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), key stakeholder institutions and organisations from the private sector in a 'Big Walk' through Lilongwe City. Over 200 people participated in the walk. Information materials distributed at this campaign included a comic strip that explains the concept of antimicrobial resistance in a style that can easily be understood by the public.



Stakeholders and members of the public marching through Lilongwe, Malawi to commemorate Antibiotic Awareness Week. The aim of the Walk was to bring awareness to the general public on the dangers of the misuse and overuse of antibiotics.

Enhancing the role of networks in enabling increased use of evidence by government

As a thought leader in the nascent field of evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM), we endeavour to contribute to building the field, attract more development partners and other actors to the field and broaden understanding on what works in enabling sustained EIDM. As part of our efforts, we co-hosted a workshop for Wellcome Trust's grantees in 2019 to share and discuss their experiences in EIDM in order to enrich their own efforts and inform the Trust's thinking on its policy engagement programme.

The workshop was held in Lilongwe, Malawi, 26-27 February, under theme 'the role of networks in promoting and enabling evidence in policy and programme decisions. Various EIDM networks were represented at the workshop, including the International Network of Government Science Advisors (INGSA), the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), and the Evidence Informed Decision-making Network for Health Policy and Practice in Malawi (EVIDENT). Although networks play an important role in stimulating interest and facilitating uptake of evidence by decision-makers, they face various challenges, including poor structures, instability, and most significant challenge being sustainability.

Dr. Eliya Zulu, AFIDEP Executive Director, was involved in conceptualizing and hosting the workshop, highlights that, "discussions at the workshop made it clear that Ministries of Health (MoHs) in resource-poor countries face a daunting challenge of having to deal with numerous uncoordinated and fragmented actors, all seeking to ensure their work is reflected in decision-making processes. An EIDM platform coordinated with the MoH could play a big role in coordinating efforts of various actors to promote evidence uptake in policy and practice."

We believe that if governments and development actors value the contribution of networks in enabling EIDM, they would need to translate this into investments needed to strengthen and institutionalise these networks so they operate more effectively.



Dr. Eliya Zulu, Executive Director at AFIDEP addressing participants during the Wellcome Trust EIDM networks workshop.

A woman in a brown jacket and white beanie is working in a field, looking down at the plants. In the background, another person is working in a field. The scene is outdoors with trees and a cloudy sky.

4

**Championing
a culture of
evidence use
for improved
governance and
accountability**

Transforming cultures and accountability of organisations

Poor governance and accountability remains a major bottleneck to development in Africa. On 6 December 2019, the National Planning Commission (NPC) in Malawi, in collaboration with AFIDEP organized an eminent speaker's series event under the theme 'Towards greater accountability: Transforming cultures of organisations.

Professor Francis Dodoo, AFIDEP Board Chairperson discussed ways governments and organisations can accelerate the transformation of Africa's development through accountable governance. He said that excellent leadership coupled with integrity are key ingredients in development, "when you are a custodian of resources, you need to be prudent enough knowing that you are serving the community. People fail to do things differently is because of perceptions. We want to be seen as nice people, at the expense of national good," he said.

He called for integrity in the management of resources noting, "we cannot continue to use institutional or national resources without thinking or realizing that these are our resources. We see people spending on procurement in ways they wouldn't if it were their money."

Professor Dodoo noted that Africa's future is bright and Africans can attain socio-economic development if they take charge and own the process, "we cannot rely on development partners to do it for us.

The responsibility to develop our own land is no one else's but ours. And if we choose not to do it for ourselves, can we please think about our children and grandchildren?" Professor Dodoo said.

Malawi's National Policy Director General, Dr. Thomas Chataghalala Munthali, said that it was important to have discussions on the future of Africa's development, an important goal for the eminent speaker's series talks. "Today we partnered with AFIDEP, a policy research institution that will help in evidence-based information for national planning."

The Malawi Ombudsman, Martha Chizuma and the First Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon Dalitso Kazombo, attended the eminent speaker's series event and commended Professor Dodoo for the inspirational address. They noted that the lecture made them reflect on how they would enforce the principles of ethical leadership in their work.



AFIDEP'S Board Chairperson, Professor Francis Dodoo speaking on governance and accountability at the eminent speakers' series event at Malawi organised by the National Planning Commission in collaboration with AFIDEP.

“ We cannot continue to use institutional or national resources without thinking or realizing that these are our own resources. We see people spend on procurement in ways that they wouldn't if it was their own money. ”

**Professor Francis Dodoo
AFIDEP Board Chair**



Enhanced leadership, capacity, and performance of Malawi's new Parliament

Malawi's new Parliament takes over the reform agenda for better performance

A key milestone in our work to enhance the effectiveness of Malawi Parliament in 2018 was Parliament's adoption of a report recommending reforms to enhance the operational independence of parliament. However, following elections in May 2019, which brought in a new parliament, the report risked elapsing.



Dr. Eliya Zulu, Executive Director (first left) with some of the members of the Malawi Parliament Enhancement Project (MPEP), International Advisory Committee.

To mitigate this, we engaged the leadership of the new Parliament, the Business Committee and the Parliamentary Service Commission, to generate high-level buy-in and support for the parliamentary reform agenda outlined in the 2018 report. As such, the new Speaker of Parliament, Leader of the House, and Leader of Opposition committed to steer the proposed reforms and engage the Ministry of Justice in moving this forward.

Improved documentation and planning for better transition for the new parliament

Malawi parliament, through our technical support prepared for the first time, "committee legacy reports" in early 2019. These detailed achievements of the outgoing parliamentary committees, and a starting point for the in-coming committees. In addition, we supported the new committee to prepare work plans for the in-coming committees. This significantly enhanced the on-boarding for the new committees, enabling them to immediately focus on their key and urgent issues.

Strengthening a wide range of technical capacities for parliament

We provided technical advice and support to parliamentary committees and MPs through the following activities:

- Training and mentorship: 92 technical staff trained in policy analysis, research methods, budget analysis, legislative research, bill drafting and analysis, and transformative leadership.
- Development of guidelines for bill drafting and analysis, and guidelines for budget analysis.
- Placement of six professionals in various departments to bolster technical capacity: AFIDEP supported placement of three economists in the newly created budget office which had no staffing at the time, two political scientists in the research section, and one lawyer in the Legal section. This was achieved through a short-term fellowship programme that has had a positive impact on the functioning of Parliament. Experts supported drafting of bills tabled for discussion in the house. The Clerk of Parliament, Mrs Fiona Kalemba, acknowledged the value of the programme to their processes, "I have read the report produced by this team as support to the Committee and I would like to specially thank the Parliamentary Budget Office for coming in when we needed them most."



92

technical staff in Malawi Parliament trained in policy analysis, research methods, budget analysis, legislative research, bill drafting and analysis, and transformative leadership.

Engaging County Governments at Kenya's 6th Devolution Conference

In 2019, Kenya marked its 6th year of devolved governance where power and responsibilities are now closer to the people through local county governments as opposed to having concentration of power and resources at the national level. Since devolution was enforced in 2013 as provided for in the country's 2010 constitution, county governments have been meeting once a year to discuss progress in implementing devolution, share lessons, successes and challenges in the process. AFIDEP participated in the planning process and also had a health stand at the conference. As part of the health committee, AFIDEP provides input through the data and evidence working group led by the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA).



Empowering Africa's top scholars to be evidence use champions

In collaboration with the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), AFIDEP implemented a series of activities in 2019 aimed at transforming Africa's top scholars into champions for evidence use. As thought leaders in their areas of expertise, these scholars are better placed to use their influence to champion and implement initiatives that promote an evidence use, culture.

Key among these activities was convening, in May 2019, of 24 distinguished AAS fellows from across Africa to discuss pathways to nurture a culture of evidence-informed decision making (EIDM) in government and their universities. The scholars deliberated challenges and opportunities that exist for them to play a more central role in championing and nurturing an EIDM culture in their countries.



Scholars who participated in the AFIDEP/AAS workshop engaging in discussions during a group exercise activity.



“As researchers we have been blamed that we talk to ourselves. Through this platform I have gained skills to proactively engage with policymakers such as through science cafés that are less formal, to keep them interested in our research. I am going to see how we can work with county governments and the Ministry of Agriculture to see how the work we are doing on Africa indigenous foods can contribute to the country's food nutrition and security.

Prof. Mary Abukutsa Onyango
Professor of Horticulture, Jomo Kenyatta University



“ Before this workshop, I did not quite understand the evidence informed decision making concept. I have always found it difficult engaging with government. But through this workshop I have identified tools that can make this process easier, the case studies have also shown it is doable. With the colleagues I met in this workshop we have discussed launching an engagement network in Nigeria and West Africa where we can share and help others build capacity on EIDM.

Prof. Peace Chinedun Babalola
Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry,
University of Ibadan, Vice-chancellor, Chrisland University ”

AFIDEP awarded small grants to three scholars through this project, to enable them spearhead initiatives to institutionalise EIDM in specific government agencies in their countries. The first initiative will be implemented in Nigeria by Dr. Temitope Sogbanmu and will involve the establishment of a forum for policymakers and researchers that will source, synthesize and discuss evidence for tackling key policy issues in environmental management in Nigeria.

The second initiative will be implemented still in Nigeria by Dr. Eucharia Nwaichi. She will work with the Nigeria Natural Medicine Development Agency (NNMDA) to develop guidelines for evidence use in its work. It is envisaged that the guidelines will be used in strengthening capacity of NNMDA in identifying, accessing, evaluating, interpreting, synthesizing, and deploying research evidence in decision-making.

Prof. David Bakibinga will implement the third initiative in Uganda. He will work with the Uganda National Academy of Science (UNAS) and the Ministry of Education to develop an “evidence pipeline” that will support decision-making in the Education Sector. UNAS will pilot this in the Education sector, with potential to have lessons inform and guide how this can be rolled out to other sectors.

Evidently, AFIDEP is inspiring and empowering AAS scholars to proactively engage governments to enable and sustain the use of science and innovation in decision-making.



Developing the next generation of EIDM experts

Between 6-13 June 2019, AFIDEP and the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) trained early career researchers from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, in effective communication of their research. Twelve researchers were competitively selected to participate in a comprehensive training and mentorship programme that ran from April-December 2019.

The programme involved several webinars, a face-to-face workshop, and development of various policy-oriented research products (policy briefs, blogs, infographics).



“ My take home from the workshop is that evidence matters, it is important in shaping the policy landscape in our countries and even at the local [level]. What I will do differently is to ensure that my research is aligned to the policy priorities in my country...I will also actively engage the policy makers with my evidence.

Eunice Kimani
Postgraduate in Health, Kenyatta University,
Kenya

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“ I have been publishing my research for the academic audience but I have never thought about translating my research for policymakers. From here I will now be writing for policy audience.

Godfrey Kagaunde
Doctor of Law Student, University of Pretoria

”

“ I have three major takeaways from the workshop: how to communicate research in a non-technical language, how to bridge the gap between policy and research, and how to be effective with the windows of opportunities to engage with policymakers.

Gautum Anand
Public Health, Oregon State University

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Strengthening media's role in improving governance and accountability in Africa

Overall, our engagement with journalists in 2019 yielded over 90 media appearances in local, national, regional and international media channels. Aside from the numbers, we implemented a number of activities and had meaningful engagements to promote quality, in-depth, evidence-based reporting.

Training Malawi journalists on Parliamentary reporting

In March 2019, AFIDEP conducted a series of capacity building workshops in Malawi for 25 journalists who cover parliament, from different media houses in Malawi. The journalists reported that the sessions enriched their understanding of parliament. "The discussions on the Standing Orders from the first workshop made me decide to read the Standing Orders in order to have a deeper understanding. And this is helping me do better stories now. For instance, I just did a story on the nomination of the leader of opposition in the new parliament, and I was able to do this story and provide context because of my improved understanding of the Standing Orders," said Mr. John-Paul Kayuni, a journalist.

The focus on enhancing understanding of the central role of parliament in a country's development efforts and improving governance is critical to ensuring that journalists provide context to the stories they write on parliament. When sharing her experiences covering Kenyan parliament, one of the workshop's participants Ms Roselyne Obala said, "you cannot give context to what you do not understand. It's therefore critical that parliamentary reporters develop an in-depth knowledge of parliament, and the Constitution and Laws, if they are to improve the quality of coverage."

Mr. Trust Ofesi, a journalist from Malawi said that, "before these training sessions, I have been covering parliament activities like events, without linking them to the role of parliament. But with the understanding that I now have on the role of parliament in good governance, I am now starting to ensure that I link my stories on parliament to development issues."

Suzgo Khunga, a former journalist now working with the Parliament of Malawi also noted, "the training has reminded us as journalists the important role we play in informing the public about the work of parliament. Apart from reminding us of the functions of parliament, the training has been an opportunity to learn about its place in democracy. It has opened our eyes to issues that we should be reporting on apart from plenary, in particular issues that highlight its effectiveness, like committee work."

“

It is critical that parliamentary reporters develop an in-depth knowledge of parliament, and the Constitution and Laws, if they are to improve the quality of coverage.”

**Ms. Roselyne Obala,
Journalist.**

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Training Kenya's award-winning journalists

AFIDEP partnered with the Media Council of Kenya for the annual journalism excellence awards summit, to train 50 journalists on the use of evidence in their reporting.

"The use of evidence as a basis for journalistic reporting not only enhances the accuracy and objectivity of a news story, but it also helps journalists to address issues in a more informed and impactful way," Dr. Rose Oronje, Director Public Policy and Communication, AFIDEP. "Increased use of research and data would further strengthen the media's role in development."

The summit awards top journalists who deliver quality reporting with a comprehensive coverage and analysis of key issues.

Dr. Bernard Onyango, Senior Research and Policy analyst at AFIDEP discussed the different angles journalists could use when reporting the 2019 national census, as a tool for informing development priorities in the country.



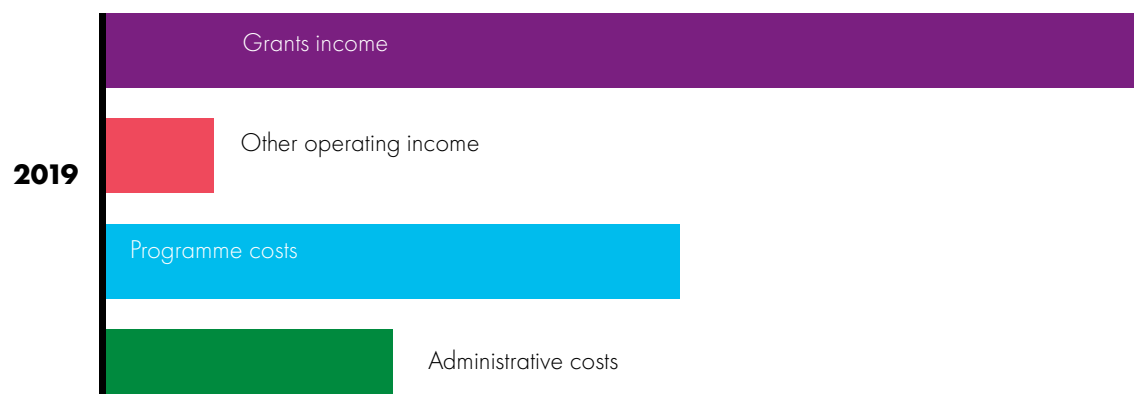
Dr. Rose Oronje, Director, Public Policy and Communications at AFIDEP when she delivered a training session to journalists from various media houses in Kenya on evidence-based reporting.



Financial Statement



STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND ACCUMULATED FUND BALANCE AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019



	2019	2018	2017	2016
	USD	USD	USD	USD
Grants Income	2,930,103	3,000,666	1,875,780	2,741,416
Other operating income	43,610	11,350	4,634	13,478
		3,012,016	1,880,414	2,754,894
Programme costs	2,212,782	1,994,441	1,462,574	1,918,730
Administrative costs	984,781	676,937	557,654	796,020
Total expenditure	3,197,563	2,671,378	2,020,228	2,714,750
Excess of expenditure over income in the year	-223,850	340,638	-139,814	40,144

Reconciliation of fund balance

Fund balance brought forward	545,659	302,725	445,557	401,335
Period period adjustment	-749	-	-	-
Excess of expenditure over income in the year	-223,850	340,638	-139,814	40,144
Transfer to sustainability fund	-100,000	-100,000	-	-
Translation difference	31,082	2,296	-3,017	4,078
Fund balance carried forward	252,142	545,659	302,726	445,557



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019



	2019 USD	2018 USD	2017 USD	2016 USD
Assets				
Non-Current Assets				
Property and Equipment	140,459	192,296	184,860	199,836
Current Assets				
Receivables	209,755	95,698	84,068	97,207
Grants Received	313,924	71,874	347,482	619,464
Cash and cash equivalents	438,841	1,163,068	590,251	168,982
	962,520	1,330,640	1,021,802	885,653
Total Assets	1,102,979	1,522,936	1,206,661	1,085,489

Funds and Liabilities

Funds				
Accumulated fund	252,142	545,659	302,725	445,557
Sustainability fund	200,000	100,000	-	-
	452,142	645,659	302,725	445,557
Current Liabilities				
Payables	175,419	156,596	251,814	444,400
Deferred Income	475,418	720,678	652,122	174,876
Borrowings	-	3	-	20,656
	650,837	877,277	903,936	639,932
Total Funds and Liabilities	1,102,979	1,522,936	1,206,661	1,085,489



List of Publications 2019

Institutional

AFIDEP Annual Report 2018: Evidence Drives Policy Decisions and Action

AFIDEP Bi-Annual Newsletter, Jan – June 2019

African Development Perspectives - 25 Years after Cairo: Accelerating Africa's promise

Research Reports

Tapping the Potential of Youth to Reap the Demographic Dividend in Angola. Ministério da Economia e Planeamento. 2019. Luanda, Angola.

Research Briefs

Angola Ministry of Economy and Planning (2019). Investing in Human Capital to Maximise Angola's Demographic Dividend

Angola Ministry of Economy and Planning (2019). Creating Jobs and Entrepreneurship Opportunities for the Youth to Harness the Demographic Dividend in Angola

Angola Ministry of Economy and Planning (2019). Tapping the Potential of Youth to Reap the Demographic Dividend in Angola

Policy Briefs

A Call to Action: Sepsis is Africa's Neglected Killer

Information Sheet on Lung Health and TB in Africa



Fact Sheets

Sepsis: Causes, Symptoms, Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention

Journal Articles

Oronje, R. N., Murunga, V. I and Zulu, E. M. (2019). Strengthening capacity to use research evidence in health sector policy-making: Experience from Kenya and Malawi. *BMC Public Health*. doi.org/10.1186/s12961-019-0511-5

Kandala, N., Pallikadavath, S., Channon, AA., Knight, G., **Madise, N. J.** (2020). A multilevel approach to correlates of anaemia in women in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Findings from a nationally representative survey *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition* volume 74, pages720–731 (2020). doi.org/10.1038/s41430-019-0524-8

Tagoe, N., Molyneux, S., **Murunga, V.I.**, et al. (2019) Managing health research capacity strengthening consortia: a systematized review of the published literature. *BMJ Glob Health* 2019; 4: e001318. doi:10.1136/bmjgh-2018-001318

Amo-Adjei, J., Mutua, M., **Mukiira, C.**, Mutombo, N., Athero, S., Ezech, A., and Izugbara, C. (2019). Fertility intentions and the adoption of long-acting and permanent contraception (LAPM) among women: Evidence from Western Kenya. *BMC Women's Health*. 19. 10.1186/s12905-019-0716-3. [Peerreviewed Article]

Rockers, P. C., Laing, R.O., Ashigbie, P. G., Onyango, M. A., **Mukiira, C. K.**, Wirtz, V. J. (2019). Effect of Novartis access on availability and price of non-communicable disease medicines in Kenya: a cluster-randomised controlled trial. *Lancet Glob Health*. 2019 Apr; 7(4):e492-e502. PMID: 30799142. [Peer-reviewed Article]

Goudet, S. M., Bogin, B. A., **Madise, N. J.**, Griffiths, P. L. (2019). Nutritional interventions for preventing stunting in children (birth to 59 months) living in urban slums in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2019, Issue 6. Art. No.: CD011695. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD011695.pub2.

Informing Public discourse

In 2019, AFIDEP organised and/or actively participated in about 48 forums and engagements. For a comprehensive list of all our 2019 events. Visit our past events page on our website. <https://www.afidep.org/resources/news-blogs/afidep-in-the-media/>

Media appearances 2019

AFIDEP was covered in 90 national, regional and national media and online outlets. For a comprehensive list of our media appearances, click on AFIDEP in the media page on our website <https://www.afidep.org/events/past-events/>

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