





Unwavering Commitment to Promoting Evidence-Informed Decision-Making

• Annual Report





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AFIDEP in Brief

The African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) is a non-profit policy and research institute established in 2010 to bridge the gaps between research, policy and practice in development efforts in Africa.

AFIDEP is registered as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Kenya, and has diplomatic status in Malawi. It is also recognised as a non-profit institution in the USA, with 501 (c)3 status. We seek to contribute to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other development strategies by enabling the use of evidence in the formulation and implementation of development policies and programmes.

What we do:

- Strengthen capacity in evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM)
- Generate, synthesise and translate demand-driven evidence on the SDGs
- Conduct advocacy to stimulate evidence uptake
- Elevate African voices in national and global discourses

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













ACCOUNTABILITY

We are accountable and transparent in all our dealings



We are focused and objective in our work



INTEGRITY

We strive to do what is right and do what we say we will do



We value diverse opinions and inclusivity



We continuously strive for excellence



We are passionate about our work



Abbreviations

AFIDEP	African Institute for Development Policy
AU	African Union
ASHER	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Exemplars
BUILD	Building Capacity for Integrated Family Planning/Reproductive Health and Population, Environment and Development Action
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
DD	Demographic Dividend
EAC	East African Community
EIDM	Evidence-Informed Decision-Making
FP	Family Planning
FP/RH	Family Planning/Reproductive Health
mCPR	Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
МоН	Ministry of Health
NEAPACOH	Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health
PHED	Population, Health, Environment and Development
РНС	Primary Healthcare
PPD-ARO	Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UAPS	Union for African Population Studies
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Bridging the gaps between research, policy and practice

AFIDEP engages with elders in Maasai Mara on population, health, environment and development issues

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Message from the Executive Director

s we reflect on the year 2023, it is with great pride and gratitude that I present this annual report, highlighting the significant strides made by the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP). Our dedication to promoting the use of evidence towards sustainable development across the African continent has never been more evident.

One of our proudest achievements this year was being honoured with the 2023 UN Population Award. This prestigious recognition underscores our unwavering commitment to integrating evidence-based approaches in policy and decision-making processes across the African continent. The award serves not only as a testament to our efforts but also as a motivator to continue our mission with renewed strength. In 2023, we continued to enhance the capacities of institutions and individuals to play crucial roles in evidenceinformed decision-making (EIDM). By offering training and resources, we empowered them to contribute effectively to policy development and implementation.

The year, however, starkly reminded us of the pressing need to redouble our efforts in achieving development in Africa as we face threats from the climate crisis, which undermines the gains made so far. The devastating impact of Cyclone Freddy on Malawi highlighted the vulnerability of our continent to climate change. AFIDEP distributed FemKits to girls and women affected by the cyclone, addressing the immediate needs of those impacted and underscoring our commitment to gender-sensitive interventions in disaster response.



But beyond the immediate, we must build the resilience of our countries, enabling communities to thrive as we collectively address the climate crisis. To do so, we must disengage from working in silos and adopt a multisectoral approach with regard to both policies and interventions. This year, AFIDEP was at the centre of the African agenda to make health concerns a priority in climate action. We co-hosted the Regional Workshop Towards a Common Africa Position for Health and Climate Change ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference, and at the conference we also co-hosted a high-level ministerial panel on integrating reproductive health in the Loss and Damage Fund.

Advancing the African-specific context is vital in the work we do, and we continually work with governments to prioritise value-for-money investments to uplift the wellbeing of citizens. Despite the continent's economic challenges, improving domestic health financing was a significant focus for AFIDEP in 2023. Our policy dialogues and research contributed to the public discourse of the value of safeguarding health outcomes for socioeconomic development.

AFIDEP continued to play a pivotal role in supporting parliaments across Africa to prioritise health and development issues. We co-convened the 14th meeting of the Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) where Members of Parliament made commitments to social development and health priorities. Our work through NEAPACOH has been instrumental in driving legislative support for critical health and development agendas.

AFIDEP has continued to press for gender equality and equity, and this was reflected in the new programmes such as Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE). By supporting macroeconomic policies and programmes that enhance women's economic opportunities, we contribute especially to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 – Gender Equality, ensuring that the benefits of economic growth are equitably shared.

The work we do at AFIDEP is critical in embedding evidence into the fabric of policy and decision-making. Our partnerships with governments, universities, and international organisations have been essential in advancing our mission. We are grateful to our board, our dedicated staff, funders and partners for their continued support and collaboration, which has been vital in achieving our objectives.

As we look forward to the coming year, we remain committed to our vision of an Africa where evidence is used consistently to transform lives. We will continue to build on the successes of 2023, addressing emerging challenges with resilience and innovation.

Eliza Zulu

Dr Eliya Zulu Executive Director



UN Population Award

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The United Nations Population Award

African Institute for Development Policy

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AFIDEP at the UN Population Award Ceremony

e were the 2023 UN Population Award laureate in the institutional category. This prestigious recognition from the United Nations validates the significance of our work in promoting sustainable population growth and development across Africa. AFIDEP has played a significant role in centring the demographic dividend as a critical development paradigm in Africa, supporting policy enactment and programme implementation to harness the skills and talents of youths, especially women and girls, in driving the continent's socioeconomic transformation.



Dr Samson Wasao, Dr Bernard Onyango, and Ms Elizabeth Lule (AFIDEP Board Chair) at the award ceremony. Photo: UNFPA



Dr Eliya Zulu receiving the population award seal at the UN headquarters. Photo: UNFPA



Dr Eliya Zulu (second from left) and H.E. Mrs Angeline Ndayishimiye, First Lady of Burundi (second from right) receiving their awards at the UN headquarters. Photo: UNFPA



Dr Eliya Zulu giving his speech at the UN headquarters Photo: UNFPA

Many adolescents, including thirteen-year-old girls born the same year as AFIDEP, face uncertain futures. Most will not attain secondary education or vocational training to thrive and be productive citizens. Many teenage girls are at a heightened risk of becoming mothers and wives. We, therefore, call on UN Member states to ensure that boys and girls stay in school, at least up to the secondary level. We must eliminate all legal and health service delivery bottlenecks and cultural practices that normalise the marginalisation of women and girls.

Statement by Dr Eliya Zulu at the UN Population Award ceremony

Global Acclaim: Partners Celebrate Our UN Award Win



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I take this moment to congratulate the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) and its Founder and Executive Director Dr Eliya Zulu for winning the 2023 United Nations Population Award.

As someone who has interacted with the leadership of AFIDEP - Dr Eliya Zulu and Prof. Nyovani Madise, the award has not come as a surprise. AFIDEP has been significant in elevating the demographic dividend as an essential Development paradigm - working in collaboration with governments and various non-state actors.



Congratulations AFIDEP and Dr Eliva Zulu

Ingrid Marie Mikelsen - Norway's Ambassador to Malawi and Zambia



Congrats to Dr. Eliya Zulu, AFIDEP's Founder & Executive Director, on winning the 2023 UN Population Award! AFIDEP's work transformed family planning, maternal health, and African population dynamics.

Well-deserved recognition! #UNPopulationAward



frican Population and ealth Research Cente Hearty Congrats to @AFIDEP for the #UNPopulation-Award 2023. Very well deserved. Here's to many more years of impact.



@AFIDEP is the #winner of the 2023 #UNPopulationAward!!

Many congratulations. We are proud of the numerous achievements of the institute in bridging the gap between evidence and decision-making across #Africa.

The UN Population Award, an affirmation of the international community, is presented to AFIDEP in recognition of significant contributions to the Africa region

Proclamation read by the UNFPA Executive **Director, Dr Natalia Kanem**



Huge congratulations to our friends and cooperation partners @AFIDEP for winning the UN Population Award!

AFIDEP's evidence-based approach and collaboration with governments, civil society organisations, and international partners have resulted in impactful programming and positive outcomes in areas such as family planning, maternal health, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and African population dynamics

> Remarks by the Chair of the **UN Selection Committee** Ms Rawa Zoghbi





Celebrating Our Milestones

FIDEP is deeply honoured and grateful to receive the 2023 UN Population Award. It is a testament to the collective efforts of our founding Director's vision, the Board of Directors' strategic leadership, our hardworking staff, resource partners, partnership with UNFPA and other





Guest of honour, Minister of Gender, Hon. Jean Sendeza leads in cake cutting, accompanied by AFIDEP Board Chair Ms Elizabeth Lule



AFIDEP staff, Mary Sichinga (L) reads the proclamation on AFIDEP's work while Tabitha Ngwira (R) presents the gold award seal



Some of AFIDEP staff at the celebratory occasion



Dr Ezizgeldi Hellenov, UNFPA Malawi Deputy Representative giving a speech



An AFIDEP was at the RESPEKT Conference in Kenya, presenting evidence and recommendations for policy and programming on sexual and reproductive health.

Challenging Barriers to Family Planning Access





I he prevalence of contraceptive use in Africa remains relatively low compared to other world regions. Several barriers to uptake include concerns about side effects, limited access to contraceptive commodities, and the need for partner approval.

In 2023, AFIDEP conducted research and provided evidence to policymakers and communities to inform decisions regarding contraceptive use and improve adolescent and maternal health outcomes. In doing so, AFIDEP's work has challenged long-standing norms, and expanded opportunities for reproductive health.

Changing perceptions through community dialogues

One of the most impactful initiatives was the Full Access, Full Choice project. Just like other African countries, religious leaders and community influencers play a significant role in shaping public opinion on family planning in Burkina Faso, Kenya and Niger. Understanding this, the project engaged with these key figures to create open and inclusive discussions on modern contraceptive methods.

Through dialogue and community engagement, AFIDEP created an environment where young people can now access family planning services without the fear of judgement. The conversations that started as part of this project have since grown into larger, community-wide movements advocating for reproductive health rights and empowering individuals to make informed choices about their futures. By involving trusted leaders, the project ensured that these changes were embraced from within the communities themselves, making the impact more sustainable.

Re-examining traditional contraceptive methods use

In addition to changing perceptions, AFIDEP also turned its attention to understanding why traditional contraceptive methods remain prevalent in many African countries. The Re-examining Traditional Method Use: Desperation or Innovation? (TEAM-UP) project, implemented in Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria, sought to explore the reasons behind the continued reliance on these methods and how this understanding can improve standard reproductive health surveys.

How AFIDEP supports family planning

The study uncovered critical insights into the motivations behind these choices, from cultural beliefs to misconceptions about the safety and effectiveness of modern contraceptives. With this information, AFIDEP is currently providing the community of researchers and policymakers with the knowledge on how to engage better with individuals and communities on traditional and mixed methods of family planning, thus enabling policy and programmes that support people in making informed decisions about their lives.

Family planning for sustainable urbanisation

Another significant achievement came through AFIDEP's work in Malawi, where the organisation linked family planning to broader urban development goals. The Leveraging Family Planning for Sustainable Urbanisation initiative demonstrated how access to long-term contraceptive methods can contribute to more balanced and sustainable urban growth. By promoting long-term contraceptive methods, AFIDEP is helping families to plan their futures while reducing the pressure on urban infrastructure. This approach not only addresses immediate family planning needs but also supports broader national development objectives. With more families able to plan their futures, cities can grow more sustainably, balancing population demands with the development of essential services and infrastructure. Helping families plan their futures while reducing the pressure on urban infrastructure Enabling policy and programmes that support people in making informed decisions about their lives

Breaking down

to reproductive health services

barriers and expanding access

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Understanding why traditional contraceptive methods remain prevalent in many African countries

AFIDEP's work in 2023 represents a significant step forward in transforming family planning across Africa. By working closely with communities, respecting cultural values, and introducing innovative solutions, the organisation is breaking down barriers and expanding access to reproductive health services.

The Institute's focus remains on informing public discourse and policies, empowering communities, fostering open dialogue, and ensuring that everyone has access to the family planning options that best suit their needs. With every conversation, and every partnership, AFIDEP is reshaping the future of family planning in Africa—one community at a time.

Young leaders of the BUILD PHED fellowship

2 Optimising the Linkages Between Population and Sustainable Development







frica stands on the brink of a demographic transformation. The concept of the demographic dividend refers to the economic benefit that can arise when a country experiences a shift in its age structure, leading to a larger working-age population relative to dependents.

Africa's population under the age of 35 comprises nearly a billion individuals, including approximately 540.8 million children aged 0–14 and 454.5 million young people aged 15–34. This accounts for 22.7% of the global youth population, making it the second largest after Asia's 58.0%. Looking ahead, Africa's youth population is projected to grow by 181.4% by 2100 - almost half of the world's young people will be from Africa. In 2023, AFIDEP continued to work with governments and other relevant actors to help take advantage of this demographic shift, which is a unique opportunity for African countries to leverage their youthful population for sustainable development.

Demographic dividend roadmap in Botswana

In 2023, AFIDEP continued to guide African governments toward evidence-based investments that align with their demographic realities. As the continent faces unique challenges and opportunities, the Institute is supporting countries in leveraging their demographic trends for sustainable economic growth. One of AFIDEP's key achievements in 2023 was the development of a comprehensive demographic dividend roadmap in Botswana.

This roadmap is a crucial framework for the Botswana government, enabling them to capitalise on their demographic trends effectively. By providing clear guidance on where to direct investments, AFIDEP empowered Botswana to focus on critical sectors such as education and healthcare. These sectors are essential for fostering human capital development and ensuring that the country's growth is both inclusive and sustainable. The roadmap provides the government with tools and monitoring mechanisms necessary for tracking progress. This structured approach is instrumental in helping Botswana to achieve its national development goals while ensuring that economic growth benefits all citizens.



AFIDEP's Chimwemwe Chifungo (R) at a consultation exercise with various Government of Niger stakeholders

Analysis of demographic trends in Niger, Nigeria and Tanzania

But AFIDEP's efforts did not stop in Botswana. Recognising the importance of demographic analysis in shaping policy, the Institute's work through the Analyses of Demographic Trends in Partner Countries project employed advanced demographic modelling tools to identify critical areas for investment and necessary policy adjustments in Niger, Nigeria and Tanzania. This analysis was vital for understanding each country's unique demographic landscape, enabling them to harness their potential effectively. Collaborating with these countries ensured that they are better equipped to navigate their demographic challenges.

Review of Malawi's progress on the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD)

AFIDEP also took the lead in Malawi, conducting a comprehensive 10year review of the country's progress on the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD). This review was crucial in assessing the strides Malawi has made in addressing population and development issues. AFIDEP highlighted both the achievements and areas requiring further attention by providing clear, evidence-based recommendations to accelerate the country's progress toward realising its demographic dividend. AFIDEP's recommendations were designed to enhance the effectiveness of policies aimed at population health, education, and economic development, ultimately ensuring that all Malawians can benefit from the country's growth.

Through these efforts, the Institute is not only addressing the immediate needs of these nations but also fostering a culture of evidence-based decision-making. By equipping governments with the tools and insights necessary to make informed investments, AFIDEP is leading the charge in helping to create a brighter future for millions of people across Africa.

Moving forward, the Institute's commitment to guiding African governments remains unwavering. AFIDEP believes that focusing on the unique demographic realities of each country can help pave the way for sustainable economic growth and improved quality of life for all citizens. The Institute looks forward to expanding its impact in the years to come and continuing to support African countries in their journey toward sustainable development.

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BUILD PHED fellows

Building a Prosperous Africa by Empowering Future Leaders and Researchers



FIDEP empowered a new generation of African leaders and researchers through two pivotal initiatives: The BUILD PHED Leadership Programme and the African Research and Data (AfRes-Data) Fellowship for Early Career Researchers. These programmes were designed to foster leadership and strengthen Africa's capacity to address its most pressing challenges by equipping young innovators and researchers with the tools and knowledge they need to drive change

Shaping future leaders

Through the USAID-funded Building Capacity for Integrated Family Planning/Reproductive Health and Population, Environment and Development Action (BUILD) project, AFIDEP focused on nurturing youth, especially young women, with cross-sectoral leadership skills to address population, health, environment, and development (PHED) issues. This initiative built the capacity of passionate emerging leaders in creating unique solutions in their communities.

A 12-day training offered these future leaders hands-on experience in key areas like policy advocacy, community mobilisation, and sustainable development. Participants delved into the intersection of PHED topics, learning how to tackle real-world challenges through a multisectoral approach. The training was followed by a year-long mentorship programme that paired participants with experienced leaders in their fields.



AFIDEP at the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, Kenya



AFIDEP engages its Malawi advisory for a project, comprising government, civil society and academic leaders during a meeting in Lilongwe

As a result of this initiative, there has been enhanced ability of emerging leaders to advocate for policy reforms and spearhead community-driven development projects. They are now leading community development programmes, advocating for policy changes, and promoting health and environmental sustainability. By empowering youths, AFIDEP is at the forefront of cultivating a new generation of leaders who will drive innovative, multisectoral solutions to Africa's development challenges.





AFIDEP leading a SMART advocacy training workshop with senior government officials in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire



AFIDEP's participation at the Africa Evidence Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya



Afres-Data's early career researchers during a workshop in Accra, Ghana

Building the capacity of the next generation of African researchers

In parallel with leadership development, AFIDEP recognised the critical need to strengthen Africa's research capacity. The Support for African Research and Data Use Capacity (AfRes-Data) project, in collaboration with the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) and the University of Kinshasa, DRC, focused on building the skills of early career African researchers, equipping them with the methodologies and tools needed to produce impactful, evidence-based research.

In 2023, AFIDEP trained 17 researchers from seven African countries, offering them advanced training in research methodologies, grant writing, and policy communication. This training was critical in empowering researchers to generate data-driven insights that could inform policy decisions at national and regional levels.

The researchers are now producing high-quality research, securing grants to fund critical studies, and are able to communicate their findings effectively to policymakers. The ripple effect of this project is significant—stronger research leads to better-informed policies, which, in turn, fosters sustainable development. The skills gained through the AfRes-Data project are not only benefiting the individual researchers but also have the potential to influence broader policy frameworks, ensuring that Africa's development is grounded in sound, evidencebased recommendations.

Looking ahead, AFIDEP aims at reaching more youths across the continent. By empowering Africa's future leaders and researchers, the Institute is laying the groundwork for a prosperous future for all. Changing Africa's trajectory, one leader and one researcher at a time.



(Third right) Dr Rose Oronje, AFIDEP's Director of Public Policy & Knowledge Translation, and Head of Kenya Office joined Kenya's President H.E. (Dr) William Ruto, Deputy President H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, Cabinet Secretary of Health Susan Nakhumicha and other invited guests at the signing ceremony of universal health coverage (UHC) bills into law at State House Nairobi

Advancing Universal Health Coverage Through Partnerships, Evidence-Informed Reforms and Innovations niversal health coverage (UHC) is a commitment to providing quality healthcare for all without financial hardship. Africa's healthcare systems have long been unequal, with access differing by socioeconomic status and geographic location. In 2023, AFIDEP provided technical assistance and evidence, along with supporting dialogues and collaborations, to fast track the realisation of quality and affordable healthcare for all.



Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and Cabinet Secretary of Health Susan Nakhumicha consulting during the high-level dialogue on health financing in Nairobi

Advancing domestic health financing

In February 2023, the 14th Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) meeting in Kampala, Uganda, organised by Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPD-ARO) and AFIDEP, focused on advancing UHC and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the event, AFIDEP and PPD-ARO launched the Advance Domestic Health Financing (ADHF) project, aimed at increasing health investments, especially in primary healthcare, and improving outcomes for women and girls in Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia. The Institute emphasised the need for stronger African leadership and domestic health financing to achieve UHC and SDG goals.

This initiative seamlessly tied in with AFIDEP's ongoing support to Kenya's healthcare reforms. In 2023, AFIDEP provided technical expertise and evidence that supported in shaping significant policy reforms. Specifically, AFIDEP played a crucial role in the development of the Digital Health Bill, Social Health Insurance (SHI) Bill, Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) Bill, and the Primary Healthcare Bill, providing evidence used in the costing of essential health packages. This work culminated in the successful passage of these critical bills into laws, which aim to enhance healthcare delivery and access through digital innovations, improved financing mechanisms, and a robust primary healthcare system.

The Institute-organised policy dialogue "Optimising Domestic Health Financing in Kenya to Realise Universal Health Coverage" and its technical inputs to the Kenyan "National High-Level Dialogue on Domestic Resource Mobilization for Sustainable Health Financing Towards UHC" brought together key stakeholders, from government, private sector, civil society organisations and the media, to outline strategies to ensure equitable healthcare for all Kenyans through various mechanisms mobilising domestic resources. In all these engagements, AFIDEP continues to provide the much-needed data and evidence to guide decision-making in charting a path for Kenya to fulfill its Africa Leadership Meeting (ALM) commitments to increase domestic allocations to health and to address inefficiencies in its health system.





Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and AFIDEP launch the Dx for UHC Tracker report in Nairobi, with key stakeholders in Kenya, including Dr Patrick Amoth, Director General at Kenya's Ministry of Health (fourth from right)

Advancing diagnostics in healthcare

In partnership with the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), AFIDEP supported the integration of diagnostics data into healthcare systems through the UHC tracker (Dx for UHC Tracker). This initiative was piloted in Kilifi, Kisumu, Nakuru and Nyeri counties of Kenya, providing a blueprint for national-level integration.

Using the tracker, healthcare providers are now better equipped to make informed decisions, improving both the quality and accessibility of healthcare services because of the integrated diagnostics data. The diagnostic dashboard has become an invaluable tool, enabling stakeholders to monitor health outcomes, allocate resources efficiently, and improve patient care nationwide.

A vital component of AFIDEP's success in advancing UHC has been its comprehensive communication and advocacy approach. By raising awareness and driving behavioural AFIDEP has influenced policymakers to prioritise data and evidence in healthcare system delivery and highlighted the importance of increased domestic health financing.

change, AFIDEP has influenced policymakers to prioritise data and evidence in healthcare system delivery and highlighted the importance of increased domestic health financing. These initiatives continue to position AFIDEP as a thought leader in health policy advocacy.

AFIDEP's holistic approach to UHC is a model for how evidence-based reforms and innovative solutions can drive lasting change and improve health outcomes. As African countries move closer to achieving UHC goals, AFIDEP will continue to support governments and other decisionmakers to impact the lives of millions, ensuring that healthcare services are both high-quality and accessible to all.

Ibrahim Governance Weekend 28-30 April 2023

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AFIDEP's Dr Mziwandile Ndlovu at the Ibrahim Governance Weekend

5 Advancing Good Governance and Accountability in Africa



overnance and accountability are a key focal point in addressing Africa's developmental challenges, and AFIDEP continued to play a critical role in this arena in 2023. This year, the Institute, for the first time, independently led the Africa Integrity Indicators (AII) project, implemented in 54 African countries, marking a significant step forward in the organisation's mission to foster governance reform and accountability across the continent.

The All project has proven to be a transformative initiative, providing African governments with essential data on critical governance issues, including transparency and public sector performance. Through a series of dissemination meetings and strategic engagements with governments, non-profit organisations, and other stakeholders, AFIDEP has established itself as a trusted source of evidence. The insights generated through the All project are now actively utilised by governments to enhance their governance systems and bridge existing gaps in transparency and accountability.

The 2023 All scorecard drew significant interest from countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, and Côte d'Ivoire, all of whom reached out to discuss their performance on vital governance metrics. These engagements highlight the growing influence of the All project and underscores AFIDEP's pivotal role in facilitating essential reforms across the continent. The data provided by All is empowering governments to tackle their developmental challenges, offering concrete insights into areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.

Beyond data collection, AFIDEP has taken an active role in shaping high-level policy discussions. AFIDEP's leadership was prominently recognised during the 2023 Ibrahim Governance Weekend, where the Institute, through the AII project,



organised a dialogue on peace and security in Africa's contemporary governance and democracy trajectory. The event brought together key dignitaries, including the African Union's (AU) Special Envoy for Women, Peace, and Security. The convening emphasised AFIDEP's vital contribution to advancing governance discourse, and the findings shared at this prestigious event continue to shape discussions around the importance of transparent and inclusive governance frameworks.

As AFIDEP looks ahead, its commitment to promoting governance and accountability in Africa remains steadfast. Through its leadership and innovative initiatives, AFIDEP will continue supporting stakeholders in ensuring that governance reform remains at the forefront of Africa's developmental agenda.



The Indicators

Divided into "in-law" and "in practice." - i.e. 54 in-practice indicators (assessed every vear), S0+ in-law indicators (last assess Elements-Each indicator has 3 elements, a score, an explanatory Users can refer to the comment as an entry paint to tetter understand why a country has achieved a particular score on an What does the scores mean? 0 (Very Weak), 25 (Weak), 50 (Moderate), 75 (Strong), 100 (

AFIDEP

AFIDEP's Dr Alex Jiya presenting on the Africa Integrity Indicators

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AFI Deo The data provided by AFIDEP's Africa Intergrity Indicators is empowering governments to tackle their developmental challenges, offering concrete insights into areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.

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Women Deliver Conference

Broadening Horizons to Achieve Gender Equality

chieving gender equality remains a challenge in Africa, with the region being the worst-performing in the UNDP's Gender Inequality Index. In 2023, AFIDEP made significant strides in expanding the discourse around gender equality through innovative projects. These initiatives not only reflect policymakers' and donors' trust in AFIDEP's research capabilities but also highlight the Institute's commitment to fostering an equitable society across Africa.

Accelerating SDG 5 (gender equality) achievement

At the Women Deliver 2023 Conference (WD2023) in Kigali, Rwanda, AFIDEP and Exemplars in Global Health launched the **Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Exemplars (ASHER)** project. The project began in 2022 with AFIDEP conducting quantitative analysis to identify and select study countries. Research in the selected countries began in March 2023, and over the span of eighteen months, the project will examine the policies, programmes and interventions in six countries – Cameroon, Ghana, India, Malawi, Nepal and Rwanda – that, compared to similar countries, have successfully reduced adolescent fertility rates and improved adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASRHR). This unique approach, in learning from and outlining best practices for other countries to emulate, will help improve ASRHR, including reducing sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unintended pregnancies among youths, especially young women. The project demonstrates AFIDEP's continued commitment to providing policy- and decision-makers with the tools and recommendations to ensure that the girl child realises her full potential.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Learning Together to Advance Evidence and Equity in Policymaking for Achieving the SDGs (LEEPS) Anglophone Hub, led by AFIDEP, aims to advance evidence and equity in policymaking across Anglophone Africa. Over the next three years, the Institute will collaborate with organisations such as the Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN) in Kenya and the African Institute for Health Policy and Health Systems (AIHPHS) in Nigeria, to strengthen national and regional evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) ecosystems. The Hub will focus on designing interventions that institutionalise EIDM across various sectors, including reproductive health and clean energy, while ensuring that gender equity and inclusion are at the forefront of policy development.



Building equity and resilience in agrifood systems and in climate action

The four-year initiative by the Mastercard Foundation, **Agriculture/Agrifood Systems and Climate Action Impact Partner Organisation (IPO)**, will have AFIDEP provide landscape mapping and investment design support while emphasising the need for gender-responsive approaches in agriculture and climate action. By integrating gender considerations into agrifood systems, AFIDEP, in collaboration with Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), aims to enhance resilience and foster equitable development within the sector.

AFIDEP is also championing climate action for health as part of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine's **Pathfinder 2: Accelerating Climate Action for Health.** This initiative, over four years, will develop practical solutions for a healthy, net-zero society and will ensure that gender perspectives are integrated into climate health strategies to enhance women's roles in climate action and health systems strengthening.



Facilitating women's empowerment in key sectors

The AFIDEP-led **Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE)** project aims to catalyse transformational change in gender-responsive macroeconomic policy, breaking down barriers that prevent women from fully participating in economic activities. With an initial focus on Kenya and Ghana, the eighteen-month initiative will promote equitable access to resources and opportunities for women, ultimately leading to greater economic independence.

AFIDEP, as part of the **Program on Women's Empowerment Research (POWER) Consortium**, led by Boston University, is also advancing women's empowerment through collaborative research and strategic communications. The one-year initiative aims to improve human wellbeing in low- and middle-income settings, ensuring that women are at the centre of discussions and interventions related to empowerment and equality.

Providing gender data and insights

Recognising the importance of data in driving change, the **Gender Data and Decision-Making** project will provide a comprehensive understanding of the gender and development landscape in sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on Senegal and Ethiopia. For two years, the project will establish a gender equality programme and a robust research agenda aimed at accelerating progress in closing the gender gap. By generating actionable insights from gender data, the project will inform policies that promote gender equity and women's empowerment.

In partnership with the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, AFIDEP is engaging in an integrated HIV surveillance and modelling project in Malawi titled **Getting Smart on HIV Surveillance** for a period of four years. This initiative aims to develop innovative methods for tracking the HIV epidemic while incorporating gender perspectives into the analysis. By utilising contextualised data and mathematical modeling, the project seeks to identify key indicators of epidemic progress and inform gender-sensitive health interventions.

AFIDEP's Executive Director, Dr Eliya Zulu welcoming Malawi's President, Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera to the National Chiefs Forum on Integrated Natural Resources Management and Transition to Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihoods

Integrating Health, Population, and Sustainability: Leadership in Climate Action

n 2023, AFIDEP intensified its efforts to address the complex and interconnected challenges of climate change, health, population growth, and sustainable development. Through strategic collaborations and community-driven initiatives, AFIDEP played a pivotal role in advocating for the integration of health into climate change policies and promoting sustainable practices across Africa.





One of the significant milestones was the first-ever Regional Workshop on Health and Climate Change, held in Lilongwe, Malawi, in August 2023 ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28). The UN conference in Dubai, UAE, had its first-ever Health Day, to support the prioritisation of health in climate negotiations. The regional workshop ahead of the conference was co-organised by the USAID-funded, AFIDEP-led Building Capacity for Integrated Family Planning/Reproductive Health and Population, Environment and Development Action (BUILD) project, and aimed to provide an African perspective in this global effort to integrate health considerations into global climate change discussions, particularly within the processes of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Health impacts of climate change, including increased vulnerability to diseases and malnutrition, require urgent action to mainstream health into national and international climate policies.

At COP28, AFIDEP, alongside the Government of Malawi, co-hosted a high-level ministerial panel, "Integrating Reproductive Health in the Loss and Damage Fund at COP28". The panel was pivotal in



AFIDEP's targeted relief efforts highlighted the importance of addressing gender-specific needs during climaterelated disasters, further demonstrating its leadership in fostering health equity in the face of climate challenges.



AFIDEP providing FemKits to girls and women affected by Cyclone Freddy in Malawi

advocating for cross-sectoral approaches to climate change adaptation, particularly in reproductive health and gender equity, and promote synergistic benefits across sectors. The event sought to galvanise political will to ensure the operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund, enabling low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to adapt to climate change while minimising its socio-economic and ecological impact.

In a related effort, AFIDEP also played a key role in the first-ever National Chiefs Forum on Integrated Natural Resources Management and Transition to Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihoods, held in Malawi in August 2023. Chiefs across Malawi committed to protecting forests, promoting sustainable agriculture, and ensuring food security amidst climate challenges. The forum, supported by the BUILD Project, highlighted the importance of cross-sectoral approaches that integrate population management, health, and environmental sustainability to build resilience. Experts in the BUILD project also worked with chiefs to develop action plans that guide their leadership in communities toward sustainable natural resource management, ensuring that the local population is both empowered and equipped to handle climate-related issues.

In addition to these high-level engagements, AFIDEP demonstrated its commitment to climate resilience during Cyclone Freddy, which devastated southern Malawi in March 2023. As part of the relief efforts, AFIDEP distributed 2000 FemKits to women and girls, addressing a critical health gap often overlooked in disaster responses. The damage caused by Cyclone Freddy underscored the urgent need for global climate action. AFIDEP's targeted relief efforts highlighted the importance of addressing gender-specific needs during climate-related disasters, further demonstrating its leadership in fostering health equity in the face of climate challenges.

These initiatives reflect AFIDEP's holistic approach to climate action, which encompasses health, population, and sustainable development. By integrating these sectors, AFIDEP is not only advocating for climate resilience but also ensuring that communities across Africa are empowered to adapt and thrive in the face of environmental changes.

From right: AFIDEP's Prof. Nyovani Madise, World Trade Organization's Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and Heinrich Böll Foundation's Imme Scholz at the UN SDG Summit in New York 1.

Shaping the Future of Sustainable Development


lobal crises—such as the COVID-19 pandemic, economic downturns, and the growing threat of climate changehave derailed progress toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of peace and prosperity for people and the planet. These significant setbacks have even reversed some development gains made in recent years. Nevertheless, there is alobal momentum toward reshaping policies and practices that can help countries recover and accelerate their development trajectories. In 2023, AFIDEP's



Policy dialogue, Midway Towards the 2030 Global Sustainable Development Goals: How Can Malawi Accelerate its Transformation Pathways Towards 2030 and 2063?, convened by AFIDEP and Malawi's National Planning Commission in Lilongwe

commitment was clearly demonstrated in shaping global and national development discourse in advancing the SDGs in Africa through research-driven solutions.

In September 2023, AFIDEP, in collaboration with Malawi's National Planning Commission (NPC), convened a high-level policy dialogue aimed at addressing the country's challenges in SDG attainment. The policy dialogue brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives from government, academia, development partners, and the private sector.

Professor Nyovani Madise, AFIDEP's Director of Development Policy and Head of Malawi Office, played a central role in the dialogue, presenting key findings from the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) titled "Times of Crisis, Times of Change: Science for Accelerating Transformations to Sustainable Development", and emphasising the need for Malawi to adopt transformative, science-based approaches to its pressing development challenges. Prof. Madise was one of 15 eminent scientists appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General to author the GSDR. Her insights, drawn from her contribution to the GSDR, provided bold, innovative steps to accelerate Malawi's progress toward achieving the SDGs.

Furthermore, the inclusive forum allowed for a multisectoral discussion on how to align Malawi's national priorities with the recommendations from the GSDR, ensuring that diverse voices, particularly those from youth groups, civil society, and the private sector, were included in shaping the country's development path.

AFIDEP's decision to centre the dialogue around the findings of the 2023 GSDR underscored the Institute's commitment to evidence-based solutions. By using the insights from the GSDR, AFIDEP created a platform for Malawi to not only reflect on its development challenges but also to identify opportunities for transformative action.

The dialogue was more than just a conversation— it served as a catalyst for action. It facilitated open discussions, promoted collaboration across sectors, and highlighted the need for continuous dialogue to address the complex challenges facing Malawi's development.

As countries such as Malawi grapple with the aftermath of the pandemic and other crises, AFIDEP remains committed to provide the evidence-based guidance and championing transformative approaches needed to fast-track the SDG agenda. The year 2023 showcased how collectively we are shaping the future of sustainable development in Africa and globally.



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As countries in Africa grapple with the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises, AFIDEP remains committed to providing the evidence-based guidance and championing transformative approaches needed to fast-track the SDG agenda.

Inception meeting for the Learning Together to Advance Evidence and Equity in Policymaking for Achieving the SDGs (LEEPS) project

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Statement of comprehensive income

		2023	2023	2022	2022
	Notes	US\$	Kshs	US\$	Kshs
INCOME					
Grants income	3 (a)	7,277,847	1,018,898,440	6,748,551	795,459,042
Unrestricted income	4	600,000	84,000,000	500,000	58,935,544
Other operating income	5	220,454	30,863,560	197, 168	23,073,985
Total income		<u>8,098,301</u>	<u>1,133,762,000</u>	<u>7,445,719</u>	<u>877,468,571</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Programme expenses	6	6,298,050	881,727,000	6,023,148	705,402,616
Employment expenses	7	552,615	77,366,100	414,964	48,392,737
Administrative expenses	8	1,063,277	148,858,780	942,177	110,546,935
Total expenditure		<u>7,913,942</u>	<u>1,107,951,880</u>	<u>7,380,289</u>	<u>864,342,288</u>
Surplus for the year		<u>184,359</u>	<u>25,810,120</u>	<u>65,430</u>	<u>13, 126, 283</u>
Exchange differences on trans-		=	<u>33,806,762</u>	=	<u>21,052,154</u>
lation from USD to KES					
		104.050	50 /1/ 000		04 170 407
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>184,359</u>	<u>59,616,882</u>	<u>65,430</u>	<u>34, 178, 437</u>



Statement of financial position

		2023	2023	2022	2022
Assets	Notes	US\$	Kshs	US\$	Kshs
Non-current assets					
Property and equipment	9	365,809	57,435,828	367,673	45,361,105
Current assets					
Grants receivable	3 (a)	1,301,520	204,351,596	938,063	115,732,117
Collaborators debtors	10 (a)	200,634	31,501,539	949,905	117, 193, 105
Other receivables	11	180,095	28,276,683	155,846	19,227,266
Bank deposits	13	1,505,817	236,428,327	1,015,581	125,295,783
Cash and cash equivalents	12	1,729,507	271,549,856	1,554,282	191,757,210
		<u>4,917,573</u>	<u>772,108,001</u>	<u>4,613,677</u>	<u>569,205,481</u>
Total assets		<u>5,283,382</u>	<u>829,543,829</u>	<u>4,981,350</u>	<u>614,566,586</u>
Funds and Liabilities					
Funds					
Accumulated fund		596, 187	59,351,493	511,828	49,242,373
Sustainability fund		500,000	57,901,885	400,000	42,200,885
Translation reserve		-	54,858,916	-	21,052,154
		<u>1,096,187</u>	<u>172, 112, 294</u>	<u>911,828</u>	<u>112,495,412</u>
Current liabilities					
Collaborator payables	10(a)	271,800	42,675,318	286, 121	35,305,301
Trade and other payables	14	270,511	42,472,835	212,609	26, 197, 174
Deferred income	3	3,644,884	572,283,382	3,570,792	440,568,699
		<u>4, 187, 195</u>	<u>657,431,535</u>	<u>4,069,522</u>	<u>502,071,174</u>
Total funds and liabilities		<u>5,283,382</u>	<u>829,543,829</u>	<u>4,981,350</u>	<u>614,566,586</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Chair, Board of Directors and were signed on its behalf by the Secretary.



Leadership and Staff



Board of Directors



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Nyovani Janet Madise, PhD DSc Director of Development Policy and Head of Malawi Office



Rose N. Oronje, PhD Director of Public Policy and Knowledge Translation, and Head of Kenya Office



Wicklife Odhiambo Okinda Head of Finance and Operations



AFIDEP Staff Demographics





Funders and Partners



Funders

- 1. 128 Collective
- 2. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- 3. Children's Investment Fund Foundation UK
- 4. David & Lucile Packard Foundation
- 5. Exeter University
- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND)
- 8. GAVI Institute
- 9. German Development Agency
- 10. Global Health Corps
- 11. Global Integrity and Mo Ibrahim Foundation
- 12. Government of Botswana
- 13. International Development Research Centre
- 14. International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSPP)
- 15. Itad Ltd
- 16. Large Anonymous Donor
- 17. Medical Research Council (MRC) UK
- 18. National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)
- 19. Preston Werner Ventures
- 20. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- 21. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- 22. University of North Carolina (UNC)
- 23. Wellcome Trust Ltd
- 24. William & Flora Hewlett Foundation

Partners

- 1. African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)
- 2. Akena Associates
- Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné Gabon
- 4. Centre de Recherche en Santé de Nouna CRSN, Burkina Faso
- 5. Centre for Policy Analysis (CEPA) Uganda
- 6. Centre for Research on Environment Health and Population Activities (CREHPA)
- 7. Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
- 8. Evidence for Sustainable Human Development Systems in Africa (EVIHDAF)
- 9. FHI 360
- 10. Government of Kenya, Ministry of Health
- 11. Government of Malawi, Ministry of Health
- 12. Government of Uganda, Ministry of Health
- 13. Guttmacher Institute
- 14. Ifakara Health Institute
- International Centre for Reproductive Health Kenya (ICRHK)/Performance Monitoring for Action (PMA Kenya)
- 16. Itad United Kingdom
- Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), School of Public Health – Kenya
- Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS) – Malawi
- 19. Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)

- 20. Kenya School of Government (KSG)
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology – School of Public Health (KNUST)
- 22. Lancaster University, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology – United Kingdom
- 23. Leadership for Environment and Development Southern and Eastern Africa (LEAD SEA)
- 24. Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) United Kingdom
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), Centre on Climate Change and Planetary Health – United Kingdom
- 26. Makerere University, Centre for Rapid Evidence Synthesis (ACRES), Lung Institute (MLI), and Institute of Infectious Diseases (IDI) units – Uganda
- 27. Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Programme (MLW)
- National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) – Kenya
- 29. National Planning Commission Botswana
- 30. National Planning Commission (NPC) Malawi
- 31. Nouna Health Research Center (CRSN) Burkina Faso
- 32. Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)
- Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPD-ARO)
- 34. PATH Foundation Philippines Inc (PFPI)
- 35. Population and Health Research Institute (PHRI)
- 36. Respiratory Society of Kenya (ReSoK)
- 37. Union for the Study of African Population (UAPS)
- United Nations Population Fund East and Southern Africa (UNFPA-ESARO)
- 39. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Malawi
- 40. Université Cheikh Anta DIOP De Dakar, Laboratoire de Recherche sur les Transformation Economiques et Sociales (LARTES)

- 41. University of Ghana, Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS)
- 42. University of Ibadan, College of Medicine Nigeria
- University of Kinshasa, Department of Population Sciences and Development Studies – Democratic Republic of the Congo
- 44. University of Liverpool –United Kingdom
- 45. University of North Carolina (UNC) United States of America
- 46. University of Portsmouth, Centre for Global Health, Population, and Policy – United Kingdom
- 47. University of Southampton United Kingdom
- 48. Vital Strategies
- 49. World Health Organization (WHO)'s IBP Network
- 50. Zankli Research Centre (ZRC) Nigeria



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