



Annual Report 2022

Forging new
partnerships
for sustainable
research
excellence

pasgr.org

PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICAN SOCIAL
& GOVERNANCE RESEARCH

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Contents



2	<u>ABBREVIATIONS</u>
3	<u>MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR</u>
4	<u>MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</u>
4	<u>OUR MISSION, OUR VISION</u>
5	<u>2022 AT A GLANCE</u>
5	<u>COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH</u>
6	<u>HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME</u>
10	<u>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMME</u>
14	<u>RESEARCH PROGRAMME</u>
17	<u>IN NUMBERS</u>
18	<u>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u>
19	<u>ADMIN & FINANCE</u>
20	<u>FINANCIALS</u>

Abbreviations

AAPAM	African Association for Public Administration and Management
ACRC	African Cities Research Consortium
AFD	French Development Agency
AFW	Accountability for Water
ANIE	African Network for Internationalization of Education
AYAR	African Youth Aspirations and Resilience
CABE	Centre for African Bio-Entrepreneurship
Cega	Center for Effective Global Action
CREST	Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science and Technology
CODESRIA	Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease
CTLE	Center of Learning and Teaching Excellence
DAAD	German Academic Exchange Service
DfID	Department for International Development
DPP	Doctoral in Public Policy
EIDM	Evidence Informed Decision Making
ESSA	Education Sub Saharan Africa
FCDO	Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office
FY	Financial Year
HEP	Higher Education Programme
HSRC	Human Science Research Council

ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
KCAU	KCA University
KHF	Kenya Healthcare Federation
LMS	Learning Management System
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOOCs	Massive Open Online Courses
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRPP	Master of Research and Public Policy
NIERA	Network of Impact Evaluation in Africa
PASGR	Partnership for African Social and Governance Research
PDT	Professional Development and Training
PedaL	Pedagogical Leadership in Africa
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
RAs	Research Associates
RP	Research and Policy Programme
SPHEIR	Strategic Partnership for Higher Education & Reform
TUK	Technical University of Kenya
UoN	University of Nairobi
USIU	United States International University
YEC	Youth Employment Creation



From the Chair

Welcome to PASGR's 2022 Annual Report

After recovering from the challenges posed by COVID-19 and undergoing a leadership transition, PASGR returned to a steady rhythm of advancing excellence in research, evidence-informed decision-making and improving instruction in higher education in partner African universities.

PASGR's key focus in 2022 has been on building new funding and development partnerships and expanding training networks across Africa. A year after the successful completion of the Pedagogical Leadership in Africa programme (PedaL), PASGR embarked on institutionalizing it within institutions of higher learning, for which memoranda of understanding have been negotiated and signed.

Despite global and economic factors that have limited access to development funding, PASGR drew from lessons learnt from the Research and Policy Programme and held on to the strategic value of forging multiple partnerships. Indeed,

Despite global and economic factors that have limited access to development funding, PASGR drew from lessons learned from the Research and Policy Programme and held on to the strategic value of forging multiple partnerships.

the Research Programme remained robust and results-focused. The Utafiti Sera was further developed with the younger generation as its new frontier. The Youth Aspirations and Resilience project, rolled out in seven countries, exemplifies PASGR's vision for the continent's new generation. The Professional Development and Training Programme continued to play a critical role in re-skilling policy researchers and participants in the Higher Education Programme. It continued to provide valuable support to students in PASGR Doctoral in Public Policy Programme.

In sum, PASGR's programmes continued to work in synergy and to make the organization stronger and stable. PASGR remains driven by the pursuit of excellence, relevance and sustainability in the efforts to contribute to reshaping Africa's policymaking.

The year 2022 closed with long-serving senior manager Dr Pauline Ngimwa in the PASGR Executive Director's seat. Her appointment in December, albeit in an acting capacity, ensured a smooth transition, continuity and steady leadership.

The confidence and unwavering support of partners in Africa, and more broadly internationally, remains the firm foundation upon which PASGR continues to grow and innovate.

Professor Narciso Matos

Chair PASGR Board of Directors and Vice Chancellor of Polytechnic University, Mozambique

From the Executive Director

Building partnerships for sustainable research communities

Partnerships are our forte. Which is why “partnership” is the first word in our name—the boat on which we navigated a year that saw us sign unprecedented memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with various institutions.

The year 2022 was a season of sealing collaborations and cultivating partners. We reached out to universities and lecturers, young people including students, non-governmental organisations both local and international, and funding agencies who recognise the value of our work in building policy research capacity and promoting evidence-based decision-making as much as we appreciate their support.

Nowhere was this coalition building more evident than in the African Youth Aspirations Research (AYAR), which is being implemented in seven countries across the continent, namely Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda.

AYAR amplified our partnerships reach, bringing on board not just individuals but their institutions as well.

Youth deserve special mention here—because they account for some 60 per cent of Africa’s population compared to the global mean of 16 per cent. The upshot is that when we embrace them as our partners, they bring along their institutions, which then gain from the mentorship we give them to deliver quality evidence-informed research that impacts policy.

The testimonies published in this annual report speak volumes of the multiplier effect of mentoring youth across the continent. PASGR worked with two research associates (RAs) in each of the seven project countries to underline the value of partnering youth.

The role of young people as our project partners was also evident in other aspects of our work. The Professional Development and Training Programme worked closely with the Higher Education Programme to deliver the Doctoral in Public Policy (DPP) scholarship programme with financial support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The in-house partnership ensured timely payment of stipends for students’ upkeep, research and tuition to young and early career researchers pursuing

the doctoral programme at our partner universities (University of Ibadan, University of Nairobi and University of Pretoria)

This is the year we also collaborated with two new partners to deliver research methods training and disseminate our COVID-19 interventions through webinar series, respectively.

The ultimate result was weaving a wide network of partnerships that testify to the old adage of “Our unity, our strength.” It is based on the wellsprings of African wisdom, which we want to entrench in our research enterprise.

Pauline Ngimwa

Acting
Executive
Director



Our mission, our vision

The Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) is an independent, non-partisan pan-African not-for-profit organisation established in 2011 and located in Nairobi, Kenya.

Currently engaged in more than 26 African countries, PASGR works to enhance research excellence in governance and public policy that contributes to the overall wellbeing of citizens. In partnership with individual academics and researchers, higher education institutions, research think tanks, civil society organisations, business and policy communities both in the region and internationally, PASGR supports the production and dissemination of policy-relevant research; designs and delivers suites of short professional development courses for researchers and policy actors. It also facilitates the development of collaborative higher education programmes.

Our vision is “a vibrant African social science community addressing the continent’s public policy issues”. PASGR’s three core programmes bring together the right mix of universities, research institutions, government, policy actors, researchers and academics to:

- Establish and sustain partnerships at national/ regional and international levels for advancing research, higher education and training;
- Facilitate the creation of policy and research communities;
- Enhance the institutionalisation of a research culture in Africa’s universities and research organisations.
- Co-ordinate a collaborative Master of Research and Public Policy and Doctoral in Public Policy Programmes with universities in Africa.



Vision

A vibrant African social science community addressing the continent’s public policy issues.



Mission

Advancing research excellence for governance and public policy in Africa

February

24-25 National conference to leverage voices of non-state actors to chart a new path for youth employment creation in Africa.

March 1-3 – Research Methods Training for PhD students through PASGR/NIERA partnership

March 8 – PASGR/Education Sub Saharan Africa (ESSA) sign MOU at Fairview Hotel, Nairobi

March 22-23 – PedaL showcases achievements in forum hosted by SPHEIR in London and Nairobi. The event brings together SPHEIR partners and key regional stakeholders

March 31 – DPP Steering Committee meets to review progress made in implementing the programme by the partners, namely, the University of Ibadan, the University of Nairobi and the University of Pretoria

April 6

– PASGR/
Ebonyi State
University
sign MoU

2022 AT A GLANCE

June 9 –
Pedal Online
Annual
Convening

**September
14** – PASGR/
Addis Ababa
University sign
MoU

October 4 –
PASGR/KCA
University sign
MoU attended
by PASGR
representatives
and KCA
University staff

**November
7-11** – Impact
Evaluation for
Public Policy
Training at the
University of
Nairobi

**November
28** – PASGR/
Polytechnic
University
in Maputo,
Mozambique
sign MoU

Communication & Outreach

Resounding impact in year of multiple triumphs

PASGR's Communication and Outreach Unit fulfilled its mandate of creating a formidable brand presence amplified by organisational and programme visibility.

Aiming at strengthening strategic partnerships, the unit strove to achieve significant milestones that elevated PASGR's brand footprint, stature and influence.

Engagement with over 70 mainstream media contacts across seven African countries helped to amplify PASGR's coverage, attracting policy actors, think tanks and international partners' attention and affirming the organisation's position as a thought leader.

Getting government and other high-ranking officials to our events testified to PASGR's robust outreach. The unit organised forums that drove policy dialogue, providing insights that shape Africa's governance landscape.

Investment in branded assets like banners and posters – tools that were especially evident at workshops and related forums – gave life to the PASGR story.

During the year, our staff and board members received timely updates through in-house newsletters PASHA and NANGA,

besides social media platforms, thus enhancing cross-programme collaboration and strategising. The collaboration strengthened partnerships that extended beyond PASGR as it hosted trainings and webinars and tagged donors and partners in news items with multiple benefits.

Our communication style led to dialogue with partners, including Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (AAPAM), the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF), Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), Mawazo Institute, and Education Sub Saharan Africa (ESSA). We cannot forget our strategic partners, who sustained our activities throughout 2022.

Multi-lingual interviews on mainstream media, including French and Amharic, resonated across diverse communities, enhancing PASGR's Pan-African ethos. Recording and archiving our activities was invaluable as it fuelled our social media narrative and preserved our journey for future generations. Year 2022 also saw elevated

engagement rates that signalled impact across platforms such as LinkedIn, Twitter – which often trended in the top 10 topics, and Facebook.

We had 199 new visitors on Facebook, 369 on Twitter, 701 followers on LinkedIn and 6,526 website users. The figures underscore the impact of our messaging even as the surge in website users testifies to our digital influence.

Our social media channels recorded a staggering 292,000 post impressions—a remarkable surge from the previous year.

Engagement with over 70 mainstream media contacts across seven African countries helped to amplify PASGR's coverage.



Delegates to an
Utafiti Sera
convening.

HEP key events

- March 8** – PASGR/Education Sub Saharan Africa (ESSA) sign MOU at Fairview Hotel
- June 9** – PedaL Online Annual Convening
- April 6** – PASGR/Ebonyi State University sign MoU
- September 14** – PASGR/Addis Ababa University sign MoU
- October 4** – PASGR/KCA University sign MoU attended by PASGR representatives and KCA University staff
- November 28** – PASGR/Polytechnic University in Maputo, Mozambique sign MoU.



Higher Education

PedaL fans out to varsities in year of transitions

Our flagship higher education programme, PedaL, adjusted from funded status to sustainability in the year under review.

PedaL, which stands for Pedagogical Leadership in Africa, is an innovative approach to university teaching implemented by the Higher Education Programme (HEP).

An all-time success story, its fortunes found stability as PASGR entered into partnerships to disperse the unique brand to institutions of higher learning.

PedaL was launched under the Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation and Reform (SPHEIR) in 2018, with financial support from the British Council and has been one of PASGR's most popular projects.

The expiry of UK assistance prompted PASGR to sign memoranda of understanding with universities keen to adopt the brand. This aligned with the Higher Education Programme's Strategic Objective 2, which is to develop active communities of practice around PedaL, the Master of Research and Public Policy (MRPP) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programmes, and Objective 3, which seeks to advance institutional sustainability and projects' visibility.

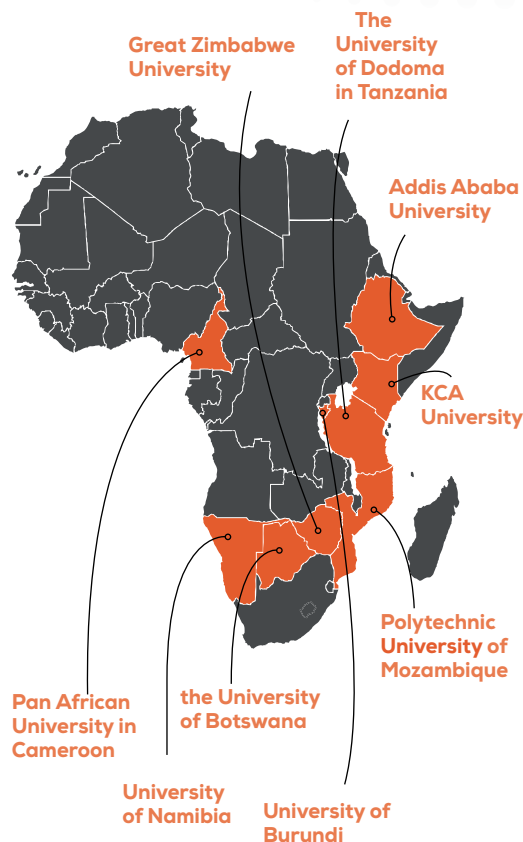
STAGES OF NEGOTIATION

A significant pact was signed on October 4 with Kenya's KCA University (KCAU)—the first of similar arrangements that saw PASGR go all out to showcase higher education activities.

By December, HEP had also engaged Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, University of Dodoma in Tanzania, University of Burundi, University of Botswana, University of Namibia, the Great Zimbabwe University, Pan African University in Cameroon and the Polytechnic University of Mozambique.

Like KCA University, Addis Ababa University also signed an MoU with PASGR. The rest were at different stages of negotiation at the turn of the calendar.

HEP Programme Officer Edwin Rwigi traces the PASGR-KCA University



A creative and better way of teaching our learners

Simon Ngigi is a professor of Education at KCA University (KCAU) and serves as Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE). He has a strong interest in pedagogical innovations and assessment of learning. He got acquainted with the Partnership for African Social & Governance Research (PASGR) and developed a passion for its initiative, PedaL—Pedagogical Leadership in Africa—in May 2021.

Prof Ngigi addresses the prevalent attitude among university faculty that they possess exhaustive teaching knowledge. He says that most faculty generally lack pedagogical training and yet they think they know it all. Their attitude is, "I've been teaching for 20 years. What makes you think I've been doing it all wrong?" This know-it-all sentiment led him to confront this challenge.

The director's 'eureka moment' came through an encounter with a University of Nairobi professor, who steered him towards PASGR. His objective was to enhance pedagogical approaches, particularly among sceptical staff.

Following an introductory session in June, 2021, which focused on course design, facilitation, and innovative assessment, Ngigi and his team recognised that effective pedagogy exceeded traditional classroom practices. This realisation prompted a Memorandum of Understanding between PASGR and KCA University (October 4, 2022), leading to comprehensive pedagogical training. The training encompassed 38 heads of academic sections across KCA University's four academic schools.

Ngigi appreciates PedaL's emphasis on pedagogical leadership. He acknowledges that a shift is needed from conventional lecture methods towards participatory learning approaches. PedaL's uniqueness lies in its specialisation and concentrated effort to enhance faculty-led pedagogy, ultimately aiming for more engaging and effective teaching practices.

CONTINUED ON P9



30

Thirty participants, 22 of them female, took part in the convention, whose theme was, "PedaL Online: reflecting back and innovating forward". Participants discussed how university education would look like going forward.



Why PedaL students won't miss a class

Dr Jared Ongaro is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Data Science at the University of Nairobi (UoN). His first involvement with PASGR was in September 2020 as a PedaL Online student.

In 2022, PASGR recommended him to KCA University (KCA University), a new partner, to facilitate their lectures on PedaL Online. Jared describes the programme as "the best programme for Digital Pedagogy

Transformation. Some of us [university lecturers] don't have a chance to be teachers; I teach mathematics but I had never carefully interacted with pedagogical strategies."

Alluding to COVID-19 ravages, Jared says: "Everybody got into the technology space to facilitate learning, but technology alone was not enough to improve teaching and learning, particularly with the winds of the 21st century skills demand on retooling of students." PedaL's strategy is to build communities of practice in teaching and learning where facilitators come together to share a collective vision. "It promotes learning and has helped us to redesign our roles from teachers to facilitators to

transform our classrooms."

PedaL promotes PASGR's research goals greatly: "Innovation is a fruit from innovative teaching and learning. Learning ensures that we develop concepts, critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and collaborative skills, which leads to knowledge creation."

Since universities cannot change 'overnight', "we can start by transforming individuals, like PedaL transformed me," Jared says. UoN's advantage is that as PASGR institutionalised PedaL, course materials were transferred to the institution, and we have customised the material to reflect our course offering needs.

CONTINUED FROM P7 partnership to recommendation from one of our Pedal graduates.

A ministry of Education official in Kenya, he says, approached a former trainee-cum-resource person at Nairobi University, Prof Hellen Inyega, requesting her to train KCA University teaching staff on Pedal. But she declined the honour, pointing the official to Pedal's originator and promoter PASGR.

PASGR then found itself in talks with Prof Simon Ngigi, who heads the Centre of Learning and Teaching Excellence (CTLE), at KCA University. It resulted in an initial training of 30 lecturers, all heads of department.

Under the October 4 agreement, PASGR would help KCA University roll out blended training for its lecturers. While COVID-19's end signalled a return to face-to-face learning, KCA University wanted to tap into blended teaching with a vision of promoting it countrywide.

PASGR seconded its Pedal champions, Prof Ongeti Khaemba and Prof Wanjira Kinuthia, to a face-to-face training at the Panorama Park Hotel, Naivasha from June 14 to 17.

Later Rwigi had the opportunity to showcase PASGR's work and present its various programmes at the 10th Annual Africa Evidence Summit in Kigali, Rwanda. Hosted by the US-based Center for Effective Global Action (Cega), the gathering brought together a network of East and West African scholars, US-based faculty, policymakers, and practitioners to disseminate the latest research findings from the region and forge new connections. Among the exhibitors was NIERA, one of PASGR's newest partners.

Rwigi emphasises the need to reinforce pedagogy for blended teaching and learning. "For many universities, online teaching and learning was merely a stop-gap measure to mitigate disruptions caused by COVID-19 pandemic," he says. Many of them had since abandoned distance learning.

The programme officer shared key interventions HEP was exploring, such as continuing to implement Pedal online, capacity enhancement with emphasis on blended learning, designing courses targeting ICT departments and staff and supporting blended learning in universities.

"We must now reflect on the future of higher education both on the continent and globally," he says.

The programme officer shared key interventions HEP was exploring, such as continuing to implement Pedal online, capacity enhancement with emphasis on blended learning, designing courses targeting ICT departments and staff and supporting blended learning in universities.

HEP is also exploring opportunities for advocating reforms of relevant national and regional policies to uphold the quality of blended learning.

Going forward, PASGR, through HEP and Pedal, will continue to provide quality assurance in line with its mandate of developing capacities of university lecturers to teach social sciences. Indeed, Pedal is already embedded in PASGR's partner universities.

That Pedal is alive and well was evident when PASGR hosted an annual convention for the project's community of practice and resource persons, who had supported it at the height of the pandemic. The online convention held from June 7 to 9 reflected on Pedal's successes, challenges and lessons, says Rwigi.

Thirty participants took part in the convention, whose theme was, "Pedal Online: reflecting back and innovating forward". They considered how university education would look like in future and whether it would retain its blended elements.

As the year ended, PASGR through HEP, was successful in its bid to host the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD regional scholarships for the MRPP programme. The scholarships were extended to qualified students enrolled in three MRPP partner universities, namely, Maseno and Egerton in Kenya and Mzumbe University in Tanzania, for the 2023/2024 academic year.



With or without sponsorship, Pedal should continue

Prof Jonathan Babalola's faith in Pedal is unshakeable.

"We got so much commitment that with or without sponsorship, Pedal should continue," the Professor of chemistry says, commenting on Pedal's round-up meeting which was held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Babalola, who is the immediate past Provost of Postgraduate College, University of Ibadan (2018 to 2022), first encountered PASGR in 2018. He was Dean of the Faculty of Science at University of Ibadan when he was requested to join the team which helped to develop PASGR's Doctoral in Public Policy (DPP) curriculum.

In 2022, Babalola joined a round-up event of SPHEIR (Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation and Reform) – the British Council programme through which Pedal was funded.

PASGR did 'extremely well' with Pedal, much more than what the launch team had committed to in their proposal, Babalola says.

"They managed to reach many more lecturers, programmes and institutions than anticipated," he says. PASGR outshone its partners at the meeting convened to review the implementation of Pedal between 2018 and 2021.

Two major outcomes stood out at the meeting. One was an opportunity for networking with participants from different groups, and the second was strengthening commitment to Pedal so that it could be sustained even without confirmed sponsorship.

Babalola reaffirms his faith in Pedal: "It will be very difficult to kill the Pedal spirit. Quite a number of people have been trained. As long as we're using the knowledge and strategies from it, as long as we remember the experience gained through Pedal and while we're still teaching and doing research, Pedal will remain at the heart of our thinking."



Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi, Vice Chancellor, South Eastern Kenya University.

PDT key events

February 28: Higher Education Utafiti Sera House on Strengthening Equitable access to Higher Education post pandemic

March 1-3: Research Methods Training on impact evaluation for over 20 Kenyan PhD students

March 28: PDT collaborating with HEP results in creation of a formal partnership between PASGR and the Education Sub Saharan Africa (ESSA) leading to signing of an MoU

November 7-11: Impact Evaluation for Public Policy Training PASGR-NIERA partnership. The training

brought together 140 early career researchers from eight African countries, namely, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, and Burundi

September 2: PASGR signed an MOU with the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), in Pretoria, South Africa

September 15: PASGR-ESSA Webinar on Quality assuring remote and online teaching and learning in HEIs in SSA

November 24, 2022: PASGR-ESSA Webinar on Achieving equitable access to higher education post COVID-19 pandemic



Professional Development & Training

Closer checks on doctoral fellowships in bid to boost outcomes

13

The year also saw PDT expand the DPP fellowship programme by adding 13 more scholarships and enhancing the doctoral research grants to adequately enable fellows carry out their fieldwork and disseminate their research findings in conferences.

Sally Miruri-Mutai, Utafiti Sera convening delegate.

The Professional Development and Training (PDT) programme seeks to enhance the capacity of early and mid-career researchers to enable them to carry out excellent (quality) research that informs policy. This has been successful as PDT graduates currently lead or co-lead a number of PASGR's research projects. Moreover, several of them have risen in seniority to become professors as others take research leadership roles in big organisations.

In 2022 PASGR – Partnership for African Social & Governance Research through PDT – forged various partnerships that entailed signing memoranda of understanding (MoUs) to further its agenda of delivering research that impacts policy decisions. At the same time, the organisation concentrated on streamlining its operations in some of the existing partnerships.

One such partnership involving three universities (i.e. University of Nairobi, University of Pretoria and University of Ibadan) is focused on delivering the collaborative Doctoral in Public Policy Programme (DPP) launched towards the end of 2019, just before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This programme is supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and is anchored in the Professional Development and Training Programme (PDT).

On March 31, PDT joined HEP to convene a DPP Steering Committee meeting to review the programme's implementation by the three partners, namely, the University of Ibadan, the University of Nairobi, and the



Scholarship provides support, motivation for learners

motivation. It was heartening to witness the programme growing and benefiting students from diverse backgrounds.”

Lubinga regards PASGR’s commitment to fostering collaboration as unwavering amidst challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Online engagements and meetings became the bridge that connected scholars across the continent, enabling PASGR to open doors to wider collaboration.

“Engaging with scholars from institutions like Nairobi and Ibadan enriched my academic journey and broadened my perspective,” she says.

A significant development from the collaboration PASGR initiated was the prospect of mobility grants, which, according to Lubinga, facilitate the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and experiences between scholars, allowing for a cross-pollination of ideas across institutions and regions.

She praised PASGR’s “dedication to innovative education, financial empowerment, and fostering cross-institutional collaborations”, which, she said, had had a lasting impact on her career.



The training workshops on impact evaluation attracted 160 trainees, who included doctoral students of public policy, policy implementers and actors from as far afield as South Africa as well as Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, and Burundi.

“The students are now able to report on their progress. That helps to ensure that all students are on track and to identify where they are struggling,” says Dr Pauline Ngimwa, the head of PDT and acting Executive Director at PASGR.

The year also saw PDT expand the DPP fellowship programme by adding 13 more scholarships and enhancing the doctoral research grants to adequately enable fellows carry out their fieldwork and disseminate their research findings in conferences. This came as a result of successful renewal of a Carnegie Corporation of New York grant, which also enabled PDT to support strengthening of the network capacity to deliver the DPP programme, which includes capacity enhancement of researchers and supervisors “in terms of their supervision and pedagogical capacity,” Ngimwa says.

In the same year, PDT strove to innovatively align itself more directly to PASGR projects that needed strengthening of researchers’ and policy actors’ capacity. To this end, PDT teamed up with the Research and Policy Programme (RP) to conduct a capacity gaps assessment aimed at developing strategies to strengthen Evidence Informed Decision Making (EIDM) capacities of the researchers and policy actors.

This was a response to an observation made by the RP that most researchers and policy actors lack adequate training to effectively play their roles in the EIDM continuum. “Capacity gaps exist in their ability to synthesise and package evidence and build relationships across the board, i.e. researchers and policy actors and decision makers for effective policy engagement.”

PDT also delivered two training workshops in impact evaluation for public policy, in partnership with the Network of Impact Evaluation in Africa (NIERA), based at the United States International University (USIU) in Nairobi, Kenya. NIERA, which had signed an MoU with PASGR towards the end of 2021, focuses on impact evaluation training. The first training was held from March 1 to 3 and the second from November 7 to 11 in the year under review.

University of Pretoria. Other than COVID-19, which affected all three over the 2020–2021 period, the University of Ibadan was hit by a nine-month faculty strike, which greatly disrupted learning.

With disruptions of COVID-19 out of the way, PDT was able to concentrate on streamlining the administration of the fellowship programme by

introducing a formal progress reporting system between the fellows, their departments and PASGR, and binding scholarship policy that spells out roles and expectations of those concerned. This accomplishment ensured close monitoring of the fellows’ progress, underlining the need for a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of DPP students’.



I want a PhD that solves real problems, says student

If Miss Glory Etim were to summarise PASGR's influence on her life, it would be in one sentence: "It has built leadership in me; it has built competencies in me, and I wish this opportunity could be extended to as many students as possible."

Glory, who is pursuing a collaborative Doctoral in Public Policy (DPP) at the University of Ibadan (UI), traces her PhD journey to a meeting with PASGR in 2017, when she enrolled for a collaborative Master in Research and Public Policy (MRPP). She describes MRPP as "one of the most important happenings in

my life" and describes much more that has happened ever since she earned it.

Back then, Glory didn't even know that MRPP was managed by PASGR. "Getting to know the way MRPP is taught, and understanding the goal of PASGR around it, made a lot of difference in my life."

Glory is now savouring the organisation's newest offering, the Doctoral in Public Policy.

She says: "Once you've had a good experience, you want to have more of it. So when PASGR announced the PhD programme, it was the best news for me. It encourages critical

thinking right from the start."

On the PhD, which is centred around problem-solving, says: "You're not getting a PhD because you want 'PhD' added to your name, but a doctorate that solves real problems. I understood that I'm here to make an impact, to solve problems! I feel like Africa is counting on me and I've to proceed in the right direction."

She added: "PASGR's financial support has been enormous. Covering tuition, living allowance, and research grant, it helps me to focus on my studies."

Both training workshops attracted 160 trainees, who included doctoral students of public policy, policy implementers and actors from as far afield as South Africa as well as Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, and Burundi. The training focused on quantitative and qualitative impact evaluation methods in public policy, a fairly neglected area especially in PhD training.

A major outcome of enhanced collaboration between PDT and the Higher Education Programme (HEP) was the creation of a formal partnership between PASGR and the UK-based charity known as Education Sub-Saharan Africa (ESSA). To this end, the two institutions signed an MoU on March 28.

The MoU's aim was to contribute to high quality education in Sub-Saharan Africa, which would enable young people to achieve their ambitions and strengthen society through the use of data and evidence.

A panel discussion titled: "Key Drivers for Higher Education Transformation in a post-COVID-19 era" marked the signing of the MoU. Panellists included

representatives from the Ministry of Education, the donor community, universities as well as PASGR and ESSA. Over 50 higher education stakeholders, including university lecturers and leaders, government officials, private sector representatives, donor community, civil society and the media, participated in-person and virtually.

The partnership with ESSA created spaces for disseminating work done by the two organisations around the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. This was done through the PASGRPlus Webinar Series under the theme: "Beyond the COVID-19 Crises:

Using Data and Evidence to Understand the Impact of the Pandemic and to Build a Better Future for Higher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa."

"The webinars were meant to create a community of practice around the issue of COVID-19 and its impact on Africa's higher education," Ngimwa says.

Through these webinars, PDT shared emerging research findings from work around strengthening equitable access to higher education during and post-

PDT also delivered two training workshops in impact evaluation for public policy, in partnership with the Network of Impact Evaluation Research in Africa (NIERA), based at the United States International University (USIU) in Nairobi, Kenya. NIERA, which had signed an MoU with PASGR towards the end of 2021, focuses on impact evaluation training.

COVID-19, which focused on three themes, namely, access to higher education, the future of post-graduate studies post-pandemic, and opportunities for public-private partnerships. The study was anchored in a Higher Education Utafiti Sera House initially hosted by African Network of Institutionalising Education (ANIE) before PDT assumed direct delivery.

As PDT stepped up its quest for partnerships, an MoU with the Pretoria-based Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) was signed in September with the first deliverable being co-hosting of the African Young Graduates and Scholars Conference. Ngimwa represented PASGR in the conference programme committee.

// The students are now able to report on their progress. That helps to ensure that all students are on track and to identify where they are struggling," Dr Pauline Ngimwa, the head of PDT and acting Executive Director at PASGR.



RP key events

January 21 – Utafiti Sera Inception workshop in Protea Hotel, Uganda, attracts 39 participants.

February 16 – Utafiti Sera breakfast meeting on sextortion at WGH, Kenya; 30 participants attend the forum to validate the first meeting on the same subject.

February 17 – Utafiti Sera Inception Workshop in Senegal, held at Pullman Hotel, Dakar with 41 participants.

February 24-25 – **Utafiti Sera** Youth Employment Creation (YEC) conference at Windsor Hotel and Golf Club, Nairobi, Kenya; 118 participants attend.

March 2-3 – Utafiti Sera meeting on Urban

Governance at English Point, Mombasa, Kenya, attracts 23 participants.

March 17 – 25 participants attend Utafiti Sera stakeholder forum on urban governance at Mostej Hotel, Rubavu City, Rwanda.

March 30 – Utafiti Sera Inception Workshop at Park Inn Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda, attracts 47 participants.

May 6 – PASGR convenes Utafiti Sera Breakfast Meeting on Social Protection at Fairview Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya for 32 participants.

June 6-10 – Analysis and writing workshop at Arusha MS TCDC, Arusha, Tanzania; 28 participants attend.



Research Programme

Youth take centre stage in year of partnerships

Our Research and Policy (RP) Unit accelerated efforts to expand networks and platforms for young and emerging social science researchers in Africa, especially women, with several youth-engaged Research and Policy activities dominating 2022 partnerships.

The African Youth Aspirations and Resilience (AYAR) project is ongoing in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, and Uganda. PASGR set up the AYAR Utafiti Sera House at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic (Utafiti Sera is a concept PASGR midwifed to translate research evidence into policies. It is a model of a house developed to achieve evidence as policy uptake). The aim was to co-create knowledge and evidence by collaborating with various stakeholders. AYAR seeks to increase job openings for youth.

In 2022, AYAR focused on understanding the aspirations, resilience and adaptability of African youth using evidence to advocate and support the design of dignified work and employment. The continent's youth are generally unable to achieve their ambitions due to limited prospects in the formal and informal sectors. RP strove to enhance partnerships with researchers and digital experts and by involving young people themselves.

Beyond individual researchers, AYAR programme partnered with reputable

organisations such as the Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR-Rwanda) and the Consortium pour la Recherche Économique et Sociale (CRES-Senegal). The other hosts are Makerere University (Uganda), University of Ibadan (Nigeria), Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), United States International University (Kenya), and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana).

The project has also mentored and trained 15 young researchers who are equipped with skills to carry out solution-driven research which addresses practical challenges that demand evidence-informed policies.

Professor Remi Aiyede from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, underlines the primacy of mentorship. "Youth came out strongly in the year under review as PASGR worked through their institutions to address challenges they face". He added: "Mentorship is inbuilt in the AYAR project, which is funded by Mastercard Foundation."

Mr Joel Otieno, the AYAR Project Coordinator, says that opportunities for youth increased as project partners focused on understanding young people's resilience and coping mechanisms amidst various challenges. Partners seek to produce research that influences decision making across Africa and informs policies and practices of various governments and non-governmental organisations.

AYAR is a unique and seamless partnership between the Mastercard Foundation and

// We promoted excellence at research, policymaking, and engagement levels; we redefined engagement by consistently assembling people to discuss specific issues, process ideas, and produce co-evidence that can be put before various stakeholders to promote the policy process; we enhanced participatory approaches to solving African issues;," Remi



I've increased my research footprint

Ms Racheal Makokha exudes confidence as she looks back on her academic journey.

A tutorial fellow at the Department of Government and Legal Studies at the Technical University of Kenya, Makokha is proud of her association with the Partnership for African Social & Governance Research (PASGR), to which she is attached as a researcher.

That connection has placed her as a lead author and co-author of articles in peer-reviewed on-line journals, which include "Women organising in fragility and conflict: lessons from the #BringBackOurGirls movement, Nigeria" and "Demanding power: Struggles over fuel access in Nigeria".

Makokha, who holds an Msc in International Political Economy and Development from a British university, says the articles have enhanced TUK's research profile and footprint because PASGR allowed her to publish under university affiliation.

Makokha thanks PASGR for "scaling up the work of young researchers, and particularly young women who lack these opportunities".

The Research Programme has enabled her to apply for a grant, depending principally on the research skills she gained in the YAR programme. "I've become a better researcher and better professional from my interaction with different stakeholders. I know how to build and maintain relationships that are necessary in my career."

Makokha wishes other organisations would open up space for budding researchers. The biggest challenge they face, she says, is lack of mentorship.

"It's what led me to gravitate towards PASGR. There was no one to hold my hand [until] PASGR provided that mentorship."

She espouses youth resilience, the subject of an ongoing project, African Youth Aspiration and Resilience (AYAR, 2021-2023) funded by MasterCard Foundation, which spans seven countries, including Kenya.



Even my university has gained from this study

Dr Adamnesh Bogale, an assistant professor at Addis Ababa University (AAU), is the principal investigator in PASGR's Youth Aspirations and

Resilience project.

Scheduled to end in December, 2023, the project has deepened Bogale's 10-year-plus acquaintance with PASGR. Ethiopia hosts one of PASGR's research cohorts with other sites in Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Rwanda, Ghana, and Senegal.

Bogale says the youth study has enabled researchers to share "concepts and knowledge, adding that teamwork, communication, and engagement were vital for effective work.

Youth dynamism defines the project, which is about using research evidence to support policy interventions in designing dignified employment and resilience strategies for youth. Bogale views youth migration as a priority for Ethiopia and AAU, and her role in the study as a growth and learning opportunity.

The research has produced scientific and non-scientific materials (newspaper Op-eds and online blogs),

which have been published or are under consideration. The products are in the names of Bogale, the university or her team. Although the AAU doesn't own the research products, they give them visibility.

Bogale doesn't play the 'woman' card but recognises the peculiar challenges facing women researchers. For instance, it's difficult for women to participate in demanding projects because of their household and other responsibilities.

"But the woman is also a fighter [and] has to fight in a world that sees her only as a woman," she says.

PASGR has made women visible and any challenges she has faced – like data collection – were not because of her gender but owing to "the country's situation" and were later resolved.

Bogale's thoughts on Ethiopian youth? "They're resilient and managing through institutions and employment in the informal sector; they're trying to find ways of survival."

implementing partners. They ensure that project design and execution go through iteration and co-creation that increase efficiency, concurrently addressing policy challenges facing young people.

Ms Rosebella Apollo, the Programme Officer overseeing the implementation of the African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC) says youth average 60 per cent of Africa's population compared to the global mean of 16 per cent.

In 2022, ACRC—one of PASGR's biggest projects involving research in 13 cities—generated evidence on youth under the "Youth and Capability" development work stream (domain) with partners in Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Somalia and Uganda. It is generating evidence to identify 'priority complex problems' and seeks transformative ways of addressing challenges youth face in multiple cities.

The ACRC is a consortium of partners drawn from civil society groups, policy think tanks, academic and

community organisations seeking to generate insights and evidence to inform interventions to help improve the living conditions, services and life chances of all city residents, particularly disadvantaged communities, in 12 African cities. The

consortium works with community organisations, city governments and agencies to co-produce knowledge and evidence that inform research undertaken alongside urban reformers to catalyse city transformation. Nairobi, Maiduguri, Addis Ababa, Lilongwe, Harare, Lagos, Bukavu, and Freetown are some of the cities benefiting from the programme.

Under the Youth Employment Creation (YEC) Utafiti Sera House, PASGR partnered with youth-led institutions to address joblessness and spur job prospects. In Kenya, the Programme partners worked to create openings in agriculture, especially in

PASGR worked with the Water Services Regulatory Authorities to anchor its research on government practices and agenda and increased advocacy and uptake into government practices and policies.

the mango and potato value chains. Centre for African Bio-Entrepreneurship (CABE), which host the Utafiti Sera house, collaborated with PASGR to convene youth-led groups from Machakos and other counties to reflect on job creation and proposed several pathways to create jobs within the value chains.

The Accountability for Water (AfW) project also drew young professional research fellows from host institutions. The project seeks to accelerate and ensure equitable delivery of Sustainable Development Goal 6, that is "sustainable water and sanitation for all", whose initial aim was to address the needs of stakeholders—government, civil society, researchers and donors—in Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Zambia.

PASGR worked with the Water Services Regulatory Authorities to anchor its research on government practices and agenda and increased advocacy and uptake of evidence to improve government practices and policies. This project also benefited from the Global Advisory Group (GAG) comprising UK-based Water Witness International, WaterAid, and International Rescue Committee to ensure that the evidence generated at the grassroots was scaled up globally.

Dr Martin Atela, RP Programme Manager, lists building relationships among PASGR's 'critical investments' in the year under review. Partnerships also informed RP's fundraising fray in 2022. "We opted to build relationships; we scouted for calls for research proposals; we intentionally built consortiums or groups that could competitively bid for those grants," Atela asserts. The partnerships that drove RP's 2022 success saw PASGR reach new frontiers beyond its Anglophone Africa comfort zone. The anticipated AFD grant that covers Cameroon and DR Congo testifies to the PASGR brand, which is beginning to be picked globally.

Prof Aiyede sums it all up: "We promoted excellence in research, policymaking, and engagement levels; we redefined engagement by consistently assembling people to discuss specific issues, process ideas, and co-produce evidence that was put before various stakeholders to promote evidence-informed policy making". He further notes: "We also enhanced participatory approaches to solving African issues and succeeded in building issue-based coalitions. Thus, in terms of research excellence, PASGR is at the forefront in Africa and we do it in style."



Training today's supervisors for tomorrow's quality research

Professor Emmanuel Aiyede has a passion for supervising PhD students.

A specialist in Political Institutions, Governance and Public Policy at the University of Ibadan (UI), Nigeria, is closely associated with our Doctoral in Public Policy programme. The University of Ibadan is implementing the DPP alongside the University of Nairobi and the University of Pretoria.

PASGR has walked with Prof Aiyede for more than 10 years. Last year he participated in the Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science and Technology (CREST) Alumni Networking of Doctoral Supervisors in Stellenbosch University, South Africa, from November 23 to 25.

He lauds PASGR for facilitating his training as a PhD students' supervisor, with funding from Carnegie Corporation of New York.

"Doctoral supervision training has been a major catalyst in improving my supervisory experience," he says of the eight-week online training at Stellenbosch, in 2020, at the height of the Covid pandemic.

Traditional supervision, he explains, is the master-apprenticeship approach. "Once you're a PhD student, you're allocated a supervisor or a team of supervisors. You're inducted into the methods, approaches and activities involved in supervision. The assumption is that after three years of practising as a post-graduate university scholar, you're sufficiently grounded to start supervising PhDs." Yet in reality, the supervisors have had no formal training at all.

Recognising this gap led to the development of training on PhD supervision to improve the quality of those programmes. "That way, we build the capacity of both the supervisor and the candidate," says Prof Aiyede

"Once you're a PhD student, you're allocated a supervisor or a team of supervisors. You're inducted into the methods, approaches and activities involved in supervision."



In numbers



Board of directors

PASGR is governed by a Board of Directors, which is currently chaired by Prof Narciso Matos. Board members are eminent personalities reflecting African global leadership as well as regional and international credibility in African policy-making, research and higher education. The Board is responsible for providing high-level strategic guidance during the initial implementation of PASGR programmes, approving programme and organisational design and reviewing work programmes and budgets.



Prof Narciso Matos: PASGR Chair and Vice Chancellor of Polytechnic University in Mozambique.



Prof Ama de-Graft Aikins: British Academy Global Professor, Institute of Advanced Studies, University College London.



Prof Lise Rakner: Professor of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen, Norway.



Prof Karuti Kanyinga: Director of the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi.



Ms Helen P. Ambasa: Legal and Governance Specialist.



Dr Pauline Ngimwa: Acting Executive Director / Programme Manager, Professional Development and Training; Secretary and ex-officio member.



Prof Gerald Ouma: Senior Director, Institutional Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

PASGR Secretariat

ANTHONY FRANCIS MVEYANGE: Executive Director.

COLLETA NJERI WANJORA: Finance Assistant.

BEATRICE NELIMA MUGANDA: Deputy Executive Director/ Programme Director, Higher Education Programme

EDWIN KIBUI RWIGI: Programme Officer, Higher Education Programme

PAULINE GACHAKI NGIMWA: Ag. Executive Director, (from December 8) Programme Manager, PDT.

MERCY GATWIRI LIMIRI: Programme Assistant, Higher Education Programme

JIM OTIENO KAKETCH: Programme Officer, Research and Policy

MARTHA NJERI NG'ARU: Executive Assistant

JOSLYN MUTHIO NZAU: Programme Officer/Post Doc, Research and Policy.

ELIJAH KABARI MWANGI: IT Officer

MARTIN HILL MO ATELA: Programme Manager, Research and Policy.

JOEL ODIWUOR OTIENO: Programme Officer, Research and Policy.

CONSTANCE FURAHA MWAHUNGA: Head, Finance and Administration

ROSEBELLA ATIENO APOLLO: Programme Officer, Research and Policy.

CHARLES KIURA NYAGA: Senior Finance Officer.

SYLVESTER OOKO OCHIENG: Senior MEARL Officer.

STEPHEN WAHOME KIRUKI: Senior Finance Officer.

Steady cashflows, post COVID-19 Pandemic

PASGR maintained a steady cash flow throughout the financial year mostly from running grants in a year when the organization was still recovering from the effects of COVID-19.

During the year, PASGR experienced low spending pandemic period trend resulting in a high projects funds carryover of US\$ 2.3 million into FY 2023. "Our expenditure for the FY 2022 was US\$2.6 million compared to US\$3.1 million spent in FY 2021," Finance and Administration Head Constance Mwachunga states. She explains: "Apart from the limited spending in the Higher Education Programme, most research projects had to navigate initial challenges to be successfully implemented. Likewise, the Doctoral Scholarships project had an implementation backlog due to the changes in the university academic calendars to accommodate the COVID-19 time lag as well as a prolonged faculty strikes in Nigeria which affected the project uptake at the University of Ibadan. The erratic and weak British sterling pound and the Kenya Shilling against the United States Dollar (PASGR's reporting currency) experienced during the year also contributed the low spend."



Financials

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

		2022	2021
	Notes	USD	USD
INCOME			
Grant Income	5 (a)	2,132,628	3,148,511
Other Income	5 (b)	6,344	25,731
Total Income		2,138,972	3,174,242
EXPENDITURE			
Research Programme		1,763,292	1,271,311
Professional Development & Training programme		302,680	637,154
Higher Education Programme		48,499	884,708
Core Administration		425,912	355,338
Foreign Exchange Loss	11	82,536	-
Total Expenditure		2,622,919	3,148,511
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		(483,947)	25,731

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

		2022	2021
	Notes	USD	USD
ASSETS			
Non-Current Assets			
Property and equipment	4 (a)	40,256	46,678
Intangible assets	4 (b)	23,901	22,302
		64,157	68,980
Current Assets			
Other accounts receivables	6	48,841	217,680
Cash and bank balances	7	2,396,134	2,182,116
		2,444,975	2,399,796
TOTAL ASSETS		2,509,132	2,468,776
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
Fund Balance			
Capital fund	8	64,157	68,980
Reserve fund	9	(30,076)	453,871
		34,081	522,851
Current Liabilities			
Unexpended grants payable	3	2,344,659	1,804,907
Accounts payable	10	130,392	141,018
		2,475,051	1,945,925
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		2,509,132	2,468,776



A group photograph of participants during the research uptake and dissemination workshop.



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PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICAN SOCIAL
& GOVERNANCE RESEARCH

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