Message from our Board Chair

Welcome to PASGR’s Annual Report 2021!

PASGR celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2021, which was a defining moment for the organisation. As a witness to PASGR’s development since inception, I vividly recall the discussions that dominated the organization’s early years. As African scholars, we were concerned that important political choices were being made in our countries with little clarity as to what evidence supports them or where they come from.

The idea that led to the formation of PASGR arose from the need to train a new generation of African scholars and researchers who will conduct research on Africa and communicate it to the powers that be, so that they are best informed to govern internally and internationally. However, given the size of the continent and the diversity of the countries and their development stages, it was clear that a mammoth institution would be needed to achieve the intended impact at scale. Hence, PASGR was founded with the strategy of strengthening the capacity of African training institutions, so that they can produce more and better scholars and researchers to shape development policy and practice in Africa.

Having seen the evolution of PASGR’s vision, I am pleased with how far we have come. Through partnerships with institutions in more than twenty-six African countries, PASGR’s is helping to address the capacity and policy needs of these countries. This is as important today as it was 10 years ago.

For all our achievements in the last decade, we appreciate the contributions of our development partners, partner universities, past leaders, including the founding Executive Directors and the founding Board, and all present and past staff at the institution.

We are, however, still a considerable distance from achieving a critical mass of Master’s or PhD degrees provided in different African countries that are effectively training the next generation of African social scientists. This is not something PASGR and partner universities could have done within the first decade of partnership.

While we reflect on the previous decade of PASGR’s work, we must also look ahead. It is up to scholars, universities, and institutions like PASGR to bridge the gap between evidence and policy in Africa. The process of consolidating what has been started is more crucial now than ever before.

Happy reading!

Prof. Narciso Matos
Board Chair, PASGR

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Prof. Narciso Matos
About PASGR

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 women and men.

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; and 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 organizations
- Coordinate a collaborative Master of Research and Public Policy with universities in Africa

Vision

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

Values

INTEGRITY AND FINANCIAL PROBITY
We are ethical, accountable, transparent and trustworthy in our operations

RESPONSIVENESS
We act and react deliberately and genuinely to internal and external stakeholder demands

RESULTS ORIENTATION
Our work shows positive, visible and concrete outcomes and impact

Mission

Advancing research excellence for governance and public policy in Africa

GENDER EQUITY & INCLUSIVENESS
We promote gender equity and diversity in all our operations and programmes

DRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE
We strive for the highest quality in our processes, products and services to advance the vibrancy of the social science community
"Our goal is for PASGR to become a thought leader in public policy and governance discourses on the African continent, as well as a go-to-place for public policy data."

The year 2021 marks a decade since PASGR’s inception. The ten-year journey has been a resounding success. Our strategy from the outset was to strengthen the capacity of African researchers and scholars and to pave the way for locally-driven, evidence-based policymaking on the continent. In the past decade, we have laid a solid foundation for this – developing processes and structures that have enabled us to stand tall as a formidable pan-African institution in public policy and governance on the continent.

Our decade-long journey, however, has not been smooth. The last two years were quite challenging with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, our resilience and boldness at innovating helped us overcome and navigate the challenges posed by the pandemic which persisted into 2021. Our robust digital strategy and innovation-driven mindset allowed us to adapt our programmes and produce outstanding results. The pandemic, which was preceded by substantial shifts in the financial landscape, has not only demanded an internal reorientation but also forced us to re-evaluate our external relations approach.

When I joined PASGR in August 2021, it was such a pivotal time. In light of all of our accomplishments during our first decade, our partners must anticipate much more from our mature institution in the next decade. Hence, as we approach the completion of our second strategic period and the beginning of our third, we must continue to adjust our internal processes and structures as well as our external engagement strategies to elevate our relevance in our rapidly shifting operating environment.

This implies that our internal governance structures and procedures must be able to support our bigger and ambitious future interventions on the continent. Externally, we must redefine our value proposition in order to persuade our stakeholders that we are the ideal partners for advancing our common objective in public policy and governance space. Our research and training value proposition should reflect the continent’s most urgent public policy and governance concerns. We effectively use our competitive advantage derived from more than a decade of lived experiences supporting research, training in public policy and governance across countries in the continent. We will also use our networks, alliances, and expertise to execute our mission more effectively and efficiently.

In a similar vein, we are also thinking of novel techniques to galvanise a continental-scale movement. As a pan-African organisation, we must unite African voices to decolonize knowledge and increase African scholarship visibility and amplify scholars’ voices in shaping and setting research and training agenda. Similarly, we must endeavour to create safe spaces where various policy actors in Africa’s public policy and governance can converge to achieve their shared mutual interests.

As we have transition into the second decade, our goal is for PASGR to become a go-to thought leader and knowledge hub in public policy and governance discourses on the African continent. I hope that our journey over the last decade, ending in 2021, exemplifies the work and aspiration required to realise this aspiration. Together we can!

Anthony Mveyange, PhD
Executive Director
Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR)
PASGR is present in 26 African countries

Researchers and Policy Actors
Early and mid-career researchers and policy actors have benefitted from the transformative PASGR Institute.

PhD Scholarships
39 partial and full PhD scholarships offered to PhD in Public Policy fellows.

PedaL institutions
Pedal participating institutions of higher learning in Africa

MRPP Graduates
PASGR is present in 26 African countries
PASGR has been an invaluable resource for scholars and researchers in Africa conducting social and governance research. In a continent where countries struggle with governance, the importance of bolstering universities’ influence cannot be overstated. This is the only way for these universities to provide evidence of sufficient quality for use by governments. Over the past decade, PASGR has been highly influential in persuading vice chancellors and other university officials in Africa to rethink teaching, thereby increasing both the demand for and supply of modern teaching methods.

By promoting African scholarship, PASGR has also contributed to the development of an African voice in the fields of policy and innovation. This voice must be strengthened and amplified further. PASGR needs a framework for long-term support and effective relationships with complementary organisations and networks in order to sustain its relevance and continue to serve Africa. The breakthrough in tackling the social and governance research issues of the coming decade will stem from a collaborative effort.

Prof. Ernest Aryeetey
Founding Board Chair, PASGR
The formation of PASGR began around 2008 with conversations in the Research and Evidence Division of DFID (now FCDO) about what an African organisation might look like that would do for the non-economic social sciences what the African Economic Research Consortium had achieved for economics. A call for proposals to design such an organisation and develop its programmes, resulted in selection of a consortium – the British Council (Kenya), Association of Commonwealth Universities and the Overseas Development Institute – in January 2010. A team was set up in Nairobi, involving myself and others familiar with the higher education, policy and research space in Africa. Our immediate task was to attract additional people from the region as board members, resource persons, advisors and staff, many of whom remain involved today. The team helped legally establish PASGR as a Kenya-based organisation two and a half years earlier than planned.

From the outset, we sought to build ownership by African institutions and individuals. A launch workshop was held in Nairobi within the first 8 weeks. It involved research and higher education leaders from across the region and beyond to explore what the organisation might look like and do. The participants themselves selected the name PASGR. While there was a sense that programmes would include research, training and higher education, there was a desire and the flexibility to consult across Africa and design programmes in response to expressed needs.

Following the launch workshop, we began engaging with individuals in universities, think tanks and research institutions over several months. We asked questions about what were seen as the major needs in strengthening the social sciences in respect of research capacity, training or education, and sought ideas on how to address various barriers, especially those faced by female academics. We heard that support was needed at the master’s level more than at doctoral level, contrary to the expectations of some. The feeling was that many initiatives had or were available for doctoral education, and that PASGR’s efforts should focus on the master’s level to have broader impact. We also heard that a great deal of research capacity development was ‘compensatory’—in the sense that it focused on methodological skills that had not been fully provided during graduate education. There was a desire for research training that, in addition to methods, would better prepare researchers with communications, networking and policy engagement skills.

Consultations and collaboration with African organisations and selected bodies outside the region eventually led to PASGR launching several research projects, and developing innovation initiatives like the Multi-Method Research Course, and the collaborative Master of Research and Public Policy programme (MRPP). An 2014 independent review of PASGR noted that there is no other graduate programme in the world that has the MRPP’s unique focus. PASGR’s growing network drew on the MRPP to develop the Partnership for Pedagogical Leadership in Africa (PedaL), which is joined by other initiatives like Utufit Sera, the new doctoral programme, and more recent collaborative events and strategic partnerships undertaken with others.

It has been tremendously exciting to watch PASGR realise its initial vision and continue to evolve in new directions, continuing its legacy of responsiveness to African stakeholders.

Joseph Hoffman
Founding Executive Director, PASGR
The Research Programme facilitates capacity development and knowledge production for policy relevant social and governance research in Africa through collaborations with researchers based in their home institutions.

The Higher Education Programme strengthens the provision of graduate-level education by enriching the teaching and practice of social science research for public policy in Africa. This programme facilitates collaborative higher education programme development and active communities of practice.

Professional Development and Training Programme represents an innovative arrangement between PASGR and its partners to design and deliver high quality, experiential professional training that builds policy actors’ and researchers’ skills and competencies.
2021 at a glance

At the beginning of 2021, the crippling effects of the COVID-19 pandemic had slowed operations in most sectors globally. Much emphasis was placed on supporting essential services to minimise the pandemic’s spread and sustain critical elements of the global economy. With sufficient understanding of the trajectory of the pandemic globally, PASGR adopted hybrid operational strategies to keep on track with capacity development and training initiatives.

In retrospect, 2021 became the year of regrouping and rebuilding the momentum lost in the hiatus of the full lockdown period. The first quarter of the year was earmarked with a new organisation of cross continent institutional collaborations for fellowships, intensified online training modes, and a review of grants with respect to the new implementation plans.

Key outputs for the year include the below:

- 12 Pedal Training Workshops were held with participation from 97 institutions, including 56 universities and 37 TVETS, representing 7 African countries of Uganda, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, South Africa, Malawi.

- The MRPP programme is hosted by 13 African universities. The programme enrolled 101 new students, while 60 students graduated in 2021. The DPP programme enrolled 36 new students.

- At least 263 people benefited from the PDT online engagement and 37 partial doctoral scholarships were offered.

- 6 new Utafiti Sera houses were established in Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Senegal and planning in process commenced for 10 more houses.

Key Outputs for 2021

- 2021 became the year of regrouping and rebuilding the momentum lost in the hiatus of the full lockdown period.

- **37** Partial PhD scholarships offered

- **12** Pedal training workshops

- **6** New Utafiti Sera houses established in 6 countries

- **263** people benefited from the PDT Programme

- **24** Strategic Research Partnerships

- **137** MRPP and DPP students enrolled
2021 in Pictures

1. PASGR receiving an award from the Philosophers of Education Association of Nigeria (PEAN). PASGR was accorded this prestigious award on 27 October 2021 at the Association’s 40th Anniversary and Annual Conference held at the University of Nigeria.
2. PASGR & NIERA MoU signing
3. Pedagogical Leadership in Africa Stakeholder’s Forum
4. Participants of Youth Aspirations and Resilience convening in Nigeria
5. Participants of Youth Aspirations and Resilience convening in Ghana
**Overview - Research and Policy Programme**

The PASGR Research and Policy programme is running 6 major projects in 20 countries across two continents, covering social justice, resource management & governance, resilience and socio-political empowerment with over 27 strategic partnerships.

The Research Programme facilitates capacity development and knowledge production for policy relevant social and governance research in Africa through collaborations with researchers based in their home institutions. The programme aims to provide high quality policy relevant research to varied audiences; integrate policy actors into the different phases of the governance research process and institutionalise research-policy communities to facilitate uptake of research evidence in study countries.

PASGR-facilitated research has a unique focus on governance. Utatifu Sera (research-policy community) is being integrated into various research themes, to facilitate the research-policy PASGR believes that governance research should be about rigorous inquiry into state-society-market relations that provides solutions to public policy problems. For PASGR, governance involves a set of institutions, structures, actors, incentives and ideas drawn from - but also beyond - government. It also holds that although interactions among multiple actors and institutions have the potential to provide responses to the challenges of development, they may also contribute to conflicts.

The governance research PASGR facilitates therefore, aims at systematic analysis of the complex dynamics underlying these interactions, determining their influence on development efforts, and providing policy options. One of its most important features is that it is problem-driven and seeks to identify what is likely to work in what context.

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**SUMMARY OF KEY RESULTS PER STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE**

| SO1: Deliver high quality and policy relevant research delivered to varied audiences | 4 draft papers under A4EA  
1 syntheses paper, 3 background papers completed on SP issues  
2 policy briefs on urban governance  
2 policy briefs on youth employment creation (Mango and Potato)  
Stakeholder engagement framework to guide infrastructural development in Kenya |
| SO2: Grow networks, partnerships and platforms for young and emerging social science researchers’ in Africa, especially women | Major YEC conference held providing opportunity for researchers, private sectors, government officials/policy actors to engage  
Advisory member grant to a senior African scholar to provide advisory guidance for the AYAR  
Successful inception convening’s for 6 new research projects in 6 African countries  
Policy roundtable dialogue held with private sector and industry players on youth employment creation |
| SO3: Expand and institutionalise research-policy communities (Utatifu Sera) to facilitate uptake of research evidence | 6 new Utatifu Sera houses established in Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Senegal  
Planning in process for 10 more Utatifu Sera Houses  
Over 500 policy actors reached with actionable evidence |
The Utafiti Sera [1] houses have continued to register impact on various fronts, for instance, ongoing houses (Urban Governance house Nairobi, Urban Governance house Kigali, and Youth Employment CreationHouse in Kenya) continued to expand frontiers of evidence-based convenings, providing important platforms for policy actors as well as researchers to engage to rethink policy work across multiple frontiers.

For instance, in July 2021, the Urban governance house convened the 5th Utafiti Sera forum to begin harvesting practices, policies and procedures that guide design and implementation of public infrastructure in Kenya.

The urban governance house in Rwanda continued to build on its work by leading a series of socio-economic studies that examined the key drivers of the development of secondary cities in Rwanda.

The house hosted a national forum in Kigali to discuss urban governance challenges faced by secondary cities. The forum identified key issues related to City Master plans facing the secondary cities as they usher into implementation of the Master Plans.

The house hosted a national forum in Kigali to deliberate on urban governance challenges in secondary cities. The forum identified critical issues relating to city master plans to inform implementation of the master plans.

The culture of evidence use being developed and anchored by our urban governance houses is:

- Strengthening decision making and accountability in partner government institutions such as the Council of Governors and the urban and municipal boards in Kenya;
- Resulting in the realisation of equitable and just cities where citizens can enjoy access to physical, social, infrastructure and essential services;
- Transforming the teaching in academic institutions and thus, the functioning of professional bodies that promote urban governance based on the principles of human dignity and spatial justice. Moreover, the urban governance houses are using evidence to challenge and transform the cultural norms and attitudes in how government interphase with citizens, including the language and narratives that often shape policies and outcomes.

The Research and Policy department has concluded 14 new partnerships with regional thinktanks, universities and CSOs to support research and uptake work delivered through 14 young professional research fellows (PRFs) under the Accountability for Water (AfW) collaborative research and uptake programme.

An important marker of this programme is a mentorship framework that links the PRFs to individual senior mentors to support their research as well as scientific publication to produce and share research, knowledge and evidence to strengthen accountability for water supply, sanitation and hygiene services, water resource management and good water sector governance.

[1] The Swahili phrase for Research Policy was coined creating a platform for knowledge sharing and engagement on policy issues.

The design and implementation of public infrastructure projects in Kenya

The development of the Kigali City Masterplan
Inclusive communities of practice championing evidence-informed policy processes in Africa

The Research and Policy programme has been working with partners to constitute effective ways of enhancing evidence-informed policy processes in Africa through inclusive communities of practice and interests. Our intermediate priorities are:

- To increase access to and use of research evidence in inclusive development policies and programmes;
- To enhance the effectiveness of Utafiti Sera Houses in enabling evidence prioritisation, uptake and use in policy and programme processes through capacity building and network development among house members and the larger evidence ecosystem in Africa.
- To contribute to a better understanding of the ecosystem of evidence uptake and use in government departments by generating knowledge and evidence base on the role of policy cultures in evidence uptake in these departments.

To realise these priorities, we are working with multiple partners to anchor and support five Utafiti Sera houses: Accountability for Water in Kenya, Youth Employment Creation in Agribusiness in Kenya, Urban Governance in Kenya and Rwanda, and Action for Empowerment and Accountability in Nigeria.

Four key results obtained through work done by the Utafiti Sera houses include:

- Our houses have positively embraced the challenges brought about by COVID-19 restrictions, embracing technology and other versatile convening approaches to ensure the continued development of a systematic ecosystem of evidence use in their areas of operations. For instance, the houses now convene in smaller workstreams within the houses, focusing on a particular task or evidence need.
- The House on Accountability for Water, although new, is already attracting significant attention from government and non-governmental policy actors because of the unique and significant policy issue it’s addressing but also the centrality of imbalanced gender relations in sextortion. Sextortion for water – when women and girls are forced to exchange sexual favours for access to clean water is a rampant yet undocumented vice in most urban settlements.
- Inter-house co-creation, learning and sharing programme - our inter-house learning and sharing programme, though new, has picked up and attracted significant interest and commitment from across the houses. Feedback from various policy actors, especially the government reinforces our thinking that building a strong culture of evidence use, would require peer learning and support, not just across multiple houses but also between units of different countries and policy issues.
- Deepening and growing recognition of the Utafiti Sera approach, with the potential to support the houses’ sustainability. We are exceptionally proud of this unintended outcome because, within just four years of piloting this work, the programme is receiving global recognition and attention, with numerous requests to share and support other organisations and research networks keen to enhance their evidence-informed policy making (EIPM) work. For instance, PASGR has been approached to lead and support EIPM work for four major research projects with global outreach and linkages. A good case-in-point is a GBP 32 Million African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC) led by the University of Manchester U.K., which approached PASGR to help design and lead its uptake programme based on the success of the Utafiti Sera approach.

“Within four years of piloting this work, the programme is receiving global recognition and attention, with numerous requests to share and support other organisations and research networks keen to enhance their EIPM work.”

Dr. Martin Atela,
Programme Manager, Research and Policy
Youth employment creation: Leveraging the potato and mango value chains for economic empowerment

PASGR in collaboration with the Centre for Africa Bio-Entrepreneurship (CABE) and Alternatives Africa, is spearheading the agenda on challenges facing the youth and new ideas for job creation in agribusiness.

Through the Youth employment creation house in Kenya, the Research Programme collaborated with the CABE and Alternatives Africa to conduct a study on Youth Employment Creation (YEC) in Agribusiness and Agro-processing in the Potato and Mango Value Chains in Makueni, Nyandarua and West Pokot Counties between August and December 2020.

Findings from the study indicated that intersectoral linkages, for example, the connection between, agriculture, ecommerce, value addition and services sectors can potentially create more than six million jobs across the mango and potato value chains. Some sectors like Agriculture already provide immense opportunities at different stages of the value chain including soil analysis, seed production, weeding, spraying, repair and maintenance, harvesting, transportation, value addition, aggregation, marketing, and training.

The study was segued with a national conference on Youth Employment and Creation in Kenya to foster a culture of routine evidence use in policy and programming in the agricultural sector. Expert panellists shared knowledge on requirements and opportunities for scaling digital agriculture in the potato and mango value chains to create jobs for the youth in Kenya through evidence-informed policy dialogue and information sharing. For this to happen, the sector requires a new way of doing things; change in the policy environment in the utilisation of value chains, harmonisation of national and county government trade regimes, curbing of wastes along the value chains and use of evidence in decision making in the sector.

Dr. Martin Atela, the Programme Manager, Research and Policy at PASGR, noted that “Such evidence-driven interventions can secure the much needed agricultural transformation and job creation for the youth at different stages of the value chain, including soil analysis, seed production, weeding, spraying, repair and maintenance, harvesting, transportation, value addition, aggregation, marketing, and training.”

3.3 million
Jobs to be created annually with recommended fixes to the potato value chain in Kenya

3.2 million
Jobs to be created annually with recommended fixes to the mango value chain in Kenya
Addressing priority complex problems to spur urban transformation in 13 African cities

PASGR is leading uptake and impact workstreams in the African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC) programme to tackle complex problems in 13 African cities. Led by the University of Manchester, the programme consortium brings together nine partners who will contribute toward creating an integrated framework for understanding ongoing challenges, policy options and practical action by applying an iterative trans-disciplinary approach. This approach is supported by two conceptual pillars: “political settlements plus” and the “city as system”.

This theme is chosen against the background of recent rapid urbanisation in Africa and emerging evidence that some metropolitan cities are turning around their past deficits in the provision of infrastructure and services, the regulation of the urban spaces, addressing social justice and citizens’ rights, creating or upholding inclusive cities and economies, strengthening local revenue collection, improving service networks, providing employment for the poor, and improving public safety and security.

The programme cities are; Accra, Addis, Bukavu, Dar es Salaam, Freetown, Harare, Kampala, Khartoum, Lagos, Lilongwe, Maiduguri, Mogadishu, and Nairobi.

The Lagos Example
Lagos, the most populous city in Africa, is frequently cited as one of the cities that have significantly improved their governance performance. Increasingly, other African cities are showing evidence of improved urban governance and turning around.

This phenomenon is raising important research and policy questions around devolved politics, citizens’ rights and participation, urban inequality and inclusivity, the role of leadership, innovative governance and management and their viability and sustainability. An additional question is on how city governments are addressing issues of resilience and adaptation to climate change while securing the rights of poor and marginalised urban dwellers.
Social and political action contributing to empowerment and accountability in fragile, conflict, and violent settings

Action for Empowerment and Accountability (A4EA) is an international research programme which explores how social and political action can contribute to empowerment and accountability in fragile, conflict, and violent settings, with a particular focus on Egypt, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria and Pakistan. The project is structured in two research phases:


In the second phase, the Research and Policy programme collaborated with partners in two main workstreams described below:

**Gendered Contentions in Fragile, Conflict- and Violence-Affected Settings: Unpacking Women’s Leadership, Empowerment and Accountability in Nigeria and Pakistan.**

The programme is conducting a conjoint comparative mixed methods research in Nigeria and Pakistan to evaluate the impact of interventions designed to strengthen collective action among women at the neighbourhood level with an aim of encouraging claim-making by women on service delivery by local governments.

The workstream explored preconditions for women’s leadership and collective action, role of formal and informal networks and alliances, and the range of strategies used by women, to identify when and how these contribute to the strengthening of empowerment and accountability outcomes for women.

The workstream took advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to design a study assessing the factors that shaped COVID-19 vaccine acceptance in the urban Global South (Lagos and Lahore). With this study we sought to understand how vaccine acceptance manifest in contexts with deep pre-existing gender inequalities in agency and healthcare access. We employed phone-based surveys conducted in households across Lagos, Nigeria and Lahore, Pakistan – contexts that have faced challenges in the delivery of the polio vaccine - to understand what drives attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccination.

The team concluded the survey in February 2021 and produced the following outputs:

- COVID-19 Vaccination in the Global South: Comparative Evidence on Attitudes and Decision-making from Pakistan and Nigeria.

Additionally, the programme successfully responded to a call for paper by the Gender and Development Journal and is working on a paper ‘Women-led social and political action in fragile and conflict affected settings: annotating the gendered accountability and empowerment outcomes of the Bring Back Our Girls (#BBOG) movement in Nigeria drawing on our research on the BBOG movement in the first phase of A4EA.’

**Demanding Power: Struggles over Energy Access in Fragile Settings in Mozambique, Nigeria, and Pakistan.**

Research in this workstream investigates how and under which conditions struggles over energy access in fragile and conflict affected settings empower citizens to hold public authorities to account over energy in in Mozambique, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

The Research and Policy programme also held a successful stakeholder engagement and evidence uptake event on March 4, 2021 in Ibadan Nigeria to share the research findings and obtain feedback from key stakeholders. The event, held in a blended format, brought together 43 virtual participants and 57 physical attendees. It was covered by several media houses in Nigeria. From this work, the programme successfully submitted a paper abstract ‘Aluta discontinua: Nigeria fuel protests and their lessons on midwifing empowerment in fragile and conflict-affected settings’ to the Development Studies Association annual conference to be held in June 2021.
PASGR's social protection work receives widespread recognition

Since inception, PASGR has been mandated to not only address context-specific challenges pertinent to the continent, but also to speak to an established research agenda. Thus, PASGR examined the objectives of the African Union and determined that social policy was one of the primary challenges. During its inaugural initiatives, the organisation focused on social protection, conducting research in seven countries to examine the place of cash transfer programmes and the role of non-state players in social protection.

This yielded a number of publications translating to evidence informed decision making and increased visibility earning PASGR rare global recognition for its work.

This initiative fostered strategic relations between PASGR, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection in addition to the parliament of Kenya. These partners view PASGR as a source of impartial and trustworthy evidence to inform policy and legislation.


There are key gaps in the area of social protection in Africa. These include definitions of social protection which miss local contexts, limited financial resources, limited budget for shock responsive interventions, limited coverage and limited capacity.

PASGR’s work entails background research and convenings on Inclusive and Just Social Protection in Africa that address three areas of interest:
- Effective Social Protection including social insurance policies in Africa to promote excluded groups in securing sustainable livelihoods or economic inclusion;
- Understanding progress on regional or continental processes providing guidance or frameworks; and,
- Facilitating a conversation between policy makers and civil society actors about the dynamics of inclusion in policy design, implementation, and governance as well as embedding a human rights lens with SP policies and programs.

PASGR commissioned three background papers and has organized a series of three (3) thematic convenings aligned to the background papers with the links below:
- Mapping and scoping of the state of current interventions in social protection by African countries
- A conceptual and theoretical exploration of 'Inclusivity, Rights and Justice in Social Protection in Africa'
- Innovations in Social protection in Africa collaborating with University of Pretoria, South Africa.

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- Facilitating a conversation between policy makers and civil society actors about the dynamics of inclusion in policy design, implementation, and governance as well as embedding a human rights lens with SP policies and programs.

PASGR commissioned three background papers and has organized a series of three (3) thematic convenings aligned to the background papers with the links below:

- Mapping and scoping of the state of current interventions in social protection by African countries
- A conceptual and theoretical exploration of ‘Inclusivity, Rights and Justice in Social Protection in Africa’
- Innovations in Social protection in Africa collaborating with University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Since inception, PASGR has been mandated to not only address context-specific challenges pertinent to the continent, but also to speak to an established research agenda. Thus, PASGR examined the objectives of the African Union and determined that social policy was one of the primary challenges. During its inaugural initiatives, the organisation focused on social protection, conducting research in seven countries to examine the place of cash transfer programmes and the role of non-state players in social protection.

This yielded a number of publications translating to evidence informed decision making and increased visibility earning PASGR rare global recognition for its work.

This initiative fostered strategic relations between PASGR, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection in addition to the parliament of Kenya. These partners view PASGR as a source of impartial and trustworthy evidence to inform policy and legislation.


There are key gaps in the area of social protection in Africa. These include definitions of social protection which miss local contexts, limited financial resources, limited budget for shock responsive interventions, limited coverage and limited capacity.

PASGR’s work entails background research and convenings on Inclusive and Just Social Protection in Africa that address three areas of interest:

- Effective Social Protection including social insurance policies in Africa to promote excluded groups in securing sustainable livelihoods or economic inclusion;
- Understanding progress on regional or continental processes providing guidance or frameworks; and,
- Facilitating a conversation between policy makers and civil society actors about the dynamics of inclusion in policy design, implementation, and governance as well as embedding a human rights lens with SP policies and programs.

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Overview - Higher Education Programme

The Higher Education Programme strengthens the provision of graduate-level education by enriching the teaching and practice of social science research for public policy in Africa. This programme facilitates collaborative higher education programme development and active communities of practice.

HEP Programmes

Master of Research and Public Policy (MRPP)
A unique collaborative graduate programme offered in multiple universities in Africa from 2014 with a dual focus on social science research and public policy. The programme targets those who wish to be researchers and future academics as well as those who wish to use research as policy practitioners.

The Partnership for Pedagogical Leadership in Africa (PedaL):
Aims at supporting higher education transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

Doctoral Programme in Public Policy (DPP)
Provides solid grounding in research methods and its integration in multiple social science disciplines while facilitating the development of competencies to analysing and addressing key public policy issues.
Demand for Pedal surge as blended learning demonstrates relevance in post-pandemic Africa

Pedal is a four year initiative running from 2018 to 2021. Initially working in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria and Botswana; At its inception, Pedal aimed to reach 7,000 university students and 1,000 academic staff in over 30 universities across the continent. The initiative has been in high demand, especially after the pandemic has necessitated a shift to online teaching for many universities.

Pedal brings together a diverse team with a shared vision of transforming teaching and learning practices to enhance the quality of graduate programmes across African universities. The team works with academics and university leadership to introduce intentional and integrated interventions in design, context, processes and content of teaching and learning aimed at maximizing learning outcomes among students.

Pedal is supporting universities to produce quality graduates through five key activities:

- Designing features and processes that drive and sustain leadership in pedagogical practice and leadership;
- Training and equipping academics with competencies for pedagogical practice and leadership;
- Supporting delivery of graduate social science programmes using Pedal pedagogy;
- Creating and sustaining an active community of practice around Pedal;
- Facilitating the institutionalisation of Pedal in participating universities.

From a target of 8 universities, Pedal has reached over 157 universities, representing ~20-fold of the target for number of universities.

PEDAL HAS BENEFITTED:

1,056 UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTS IN OVER 30 UNIVERSITIES ACROSS AFRICA, INCLUDING 336 DEPARTMENTS IN PARTNER UNIVERSITIES AND 720 IN NON-PARTNER UNIVERSITIES.
Partner Voices: Pedagogy Transformation

One of the booming programmes being institutionalised by African universities is the pedagogical leadership online training techniques for lecturers to design courses, teach and even assess online under the Partnership for Pedagogical Leadership in Africa (PedaL).

The programme, funded by the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office’s Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation and Reforms (SPHEIR), began online training for lecturers in July 2020 and has since trained more than 1,100 lecturers from 80 African universities with 40% of trained lecturers being female.

PedaL’s online training programme seeks to help university educators enrich their knowledge in the design of courses and how to utilize technologically driven learning management systems to enhance teaching and learning. The course covers fundamental concepts and practical application of a variety of toolsets, digital resources and strategies for course planning and design as well as creative facilitation and innovative assessment.

Aimed at catalysing systematic change in teaching and learning in African universities, PedaL is implemented by PASGR in partnership with the UK’s Institute of Development Studies, the University of Sussex, the African Research Universities Alliance, Egerton University in Kenya, the University of Ghana, University of Ibadan in Nigeria, Tanzania’s University of Dar es Salaam and Uganda Martyrs University.

Patricia Wambugu
Egerton University
PedaL has transformed my teaching in the University from doing presentation of my lectures to ensuring that the learning outcomes are achieved but are aligned with the methods of teaching and assessment. I have also been able to do a reflective evaluation after every session. I have been able to enhance my teaching with technology.

Ester Sakyi-Dawson
University of Ghana
Since 2018 that I got involved in PEDAL I have gained a lot of innovative pedagogical ideas that have helped to improve and sharpen my teaching philosophy and practice. My teaching is now more student-centered. I actually enjoy my interaction with the students more as I am able to used different formats during lectures and the classroom experience is more interactive and lively.

Kola Babarinde
University of Ibadan
I have motivated more champions through my capacity building workshops across many tertiary institutions with enrichment from several PedaL led training in Course Design, Facilitation and Innovative Assessment. I have also been motivated to become a better content developer with most of my content now on popular social media.
Transforming the pedagogical orientation of teaching staff in universities: Summative evaluation findings

The summative evaluation of the Pedal Project was carried out between October 2020 and June 2021 by an external team of evaluators in collaboration with Pedal’s Evaluation Steering Committee and PASGR’s staff. The evaluation sought to evaluate two key project outcomes:

- Sustained improvement in higher education teaching and learning that can be attributed to Pedal; and
- Pedal’s contribution to universities’ ability to produce quality graduates that meet employment needs and generate useful knowledge.

According to the findings, Pedal has transformed teaching and learning practices across the continent. Evidence suggests that, through Pedal, teaching staff have gained pedagogical skills essential for facilitating richer learning and producing employable graduates. 95-98% of those surveyed said they were satisfied with Pedal training.

By 2020 Pedal had trained 2,158 teaching staff from over 70 universities, 1,250 (57.9%) male, 908 (42.1%) female. The evaluation also found that Pedal’s training design was participatory with strong evidence of quality assurance and adaptation. By June 2021, Pedal had influenced the redesign of 1,353 courses, half (628) of which were delivered between July 2020 and June 2021 bolstered by the Pedal Online series. The number of teaching staff documenting their Pedal journey through e-portfolio nearly doubled from 564 in June 2020 to 919 by June 2021.

Other findings indicate that the use of Pedal is significantly contributing to enhancing students’ competencies with essential skills for the 21st-century. Students and lecturers reported improved acquisition of fundamental skills that equip graduates for employability. A survey of 258 students reported significant knowledge gains in 21st Century skills. About 90-93% of these students, for example, reported acquiring critical thinking, collaboration and teamwork, and connecting to real life situations skills as a result of Pedal’s interventions.
Professional Development and Training
Overview - PDT Programme

The PDT Programme tools and retools early and mid-career researchers in various disciplines and sectors, including academia, civil society organisations (CSOs), development partners, state and non-state policy actors and research institutions. Short-term tailor-made courses are intentionally designed and targeted to serve the needs of diverse audiences (i.e., African academics, think tanks, research institutions, policy actors, graduate students).

Professional Development and Training (PDT), popularly known as the PASGR Methods Institute represents an innovative arrangement between PASGR and its partners to design and deliver high quality, experiential professional training that builds policy actors’ and researchers’ skills and competencies.

The PDT Programme has equipped over 3,000 early and mid-career individual researchers and institutional policy actors from 26 countries across Africa with research methods and policy analysis capacities. This is delivered through open entry PDT courses targeting individuals with diverse backgrounds but with similar learning needs and ad hoc tailor-made PDT courses, targeting institutional teams with specific learning needs, through in-house training.

The training programme includes an integrated Advanced Research Design (ARD) course comprising core design modules (i.e., Designing Social Inquiry; Multi-Method Strategies for Research; Critical Policy Engaged Research; Research Ethics). This is considered a foundational course that provides theoretical and practical design skills.

The rest of the modules focus on the theoretical and practical elements of research methods and are offered as standalone elective modules. These include: Engendering Social Science Research Methods; Ethnographic and Interpretive Methods; Impact Evaluation; Survey Design; Action Research; Applied Quantitative methods; Comparative Case Analysis; and Social Network Analysis. Additionally, the programme has policy focused modules that include Contemporary Political Economy Analysis; Research Communication & Engagement; and Informed Research Consumers.

The delivery of the training utilises a pedagogy anchored on interactive learner-centred techniques such as group projects, role plays, fieldwork and guided discussions coupled with peer learning. Technology enhanced learning in form of multi-media materials i.e., electronic case studies, documentaries and animations has been deployed to support teaching and learning. The delivery is also problem-based; where participants identify a research problem which they sharpen by applying the new knowledge and skills they acquire during the training. This adds a practical dimension to the training while peer learning reinforces interactivity. The modules are in blended formats meaning that they can be offered as face-to-face or online.

Early and mid-career individual researchers and institutional policy actors equipped by the PDT programme

3,000+

26 African countries represented
PDT Programme’s 2021 Achievements

Capacity Development

In the context of 2021, PDT commenced the year with a research methods training for research fellows in the Accountability for Water (AfW) research project. In line with the new strategic direction to provide targeted capacity strengthening of PASGR’s other core programmes, PDT collaborated with two partners involved in AfW research project, i.e., Water Witness International and Institute of Development Studies, to train research fellows from Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia. The fellows were introduced to issues to consider while designing policy engaged research that is gendered and ethically sound, as well as strategies for participatory research approaches.

As the year rolled, PDT registered significant wins. In the first instance, PASGR received a renewal two-year grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York for the PDT programme to strengthen high quality doctoral production in the social sciences for public policy in three African universities through provision of doctoral scholarships. Consequently, 37 students registered for Doctoral in Public Policy (DPP) programme at University of Pretoria, University of Nairobi, and University of Ibadan benefitted from the programme.

Through this grant, PDT continued to deliver on its training mandate by equipping doctoral students with strategies of integrating designing policy engaged research. This was a two-day online training co-designed and delivered with the faculty. As part of DPP network strengthening efforts, DPP supervisors were not left out. PDT created spaces for co-creation of an innovative intervention aimed at strengthening supervisors’ capacity to supervise an interdisciplinary public policy programme, that integrates digital tools. Working collaboratively with three representatives from the Partner Universities and an expert in Postgraduate studies, a ten-day online course was designed and delivered to 45 supervisors.

The course applied the South African National Qualifications Framework (NQF) to give it recognition in different contexts, given the multi-national nature of the PhD programme. The delivery adopted an interactive, reflective and peer-learning approach that offered participants the opportunity to share experiences and collaboratively discuss solutions from what they were learning. This was the highlight of the course, as confirmed by one participant who said: “The breakout session was highly interactive and interesting as practical issues with respect to supervising students at PhD level featured prominently in the session.”

Visioning Digital Higher Education project

Another highlight was a partnership with University College of London Knowledge Lab, PASGR as the lead organization to co-deliver the Digital University project in Kenya. With support from the British Council, this project convened three virtual sessions that brought together university leaders in Kenya as a community of practice to support them to shape the future of digital higher education. Using the Utalifi Sera approach, participants collaborated to:

- Reflect on what they have learnt from the rapid shift online necessitated by COVID-19 pandemic, what we need to keep and what we need to change;
- Develop a vision for digital higher education in Kenya that reflects the mission of the universities;
- Plan for how to put the vision for digital higher education in Kenya in place, and consider the opportunities and obstacles we might encounter.

The project succeeded in bringing together senior education policy who critiqued policy recommendations and action plans that were generated from the convenings. The outcome was a proposal for vision and national framework for Digital Higher Education in Kenya.
Gendering Policy-Engaged Education Research Project in Africa

Another win for PASGR was a grant from the Spencer Foundation to strengthen the capacity of education researchers and policy actors in Africa in order to produce policy engaged and gendered research that addresses the ongoing education reforms as well as emerging COVID-19 challenges of equitable access to education. The project was structured around two virtual meetings and a research methods training programme in between.

The first convening drew participation from 55 education researchers and policy actors from different parts of Africa. This convening identified key research issues in education reforms that require research evidence. The meeting also identified research gaps were used to customise existing research modules and packaged into a three-week online training that was delivered to 33 education researchers and policy actors.

The end-of-course evaluation confirmed that the training had achieved its objective with 83% of the researchers having gained an understanding of policy engaged research. Participants’ prior misconceptions around gendering research were also corrected as illustrated in the quote below:

“Gender mainstreaming in research process was my aha moment - this has been a big assumption to me that gender is automatically considered when you have an items asking about ‘what is your gender?’ now I know how to do it.”

Engendering research to shape inclusive policies across Africa in Education is a critical contribution towards achieving agenda 2063 and Education for all.
Partner Voices: Tooling and Retooling African Researchers

PASGR’s training programme includes an integrated Advanced Research Design (ARD) course comprising core design modules (i.e. Designing Social Inquiry; Multi-Method Strategies for Research; Critical Policy Engaged Research; Research Ethics). This is considered a foundational course that provides theoretical and practical design skills. The rest of the modules focus on the theoretical and practical elements of research methods and are offered as standalone elective modules. These include: Engendering Social Science Research Methods; Ethnographic and Interpretive Methods; Impact Evaluation; Survey Design; Action Research; Applied Quantitative methods; Comparative Case Analysis; and Social Network Analysis. Additionally, the programme has policy focused modules that include Contemporary Political Economy Analysis; Research Communication & Engagement; and Informed Research Consumers.

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Kellen Kiambati
Karatina University
The PASGR trainings have not just helped me in my career, they transformed me. The trainings changed both my work and personal life in such a positive way. I was able to employ the skills and tips I learnt, with great results almost immediately largely because of the practical nature of PASGR’s trainings. As a result of PASGR trainings, I have been able to acquire three (3) grants. I am truly and eternally grateful to PASGR for the opportunities.

Gifty Appiah-Adjei
University of Education
I have used the knowledge and skills I acquired to advance on my doctoral research. They are helpful for my research design. I have also had courses on research methods as part of my doctoral studies and the knowledge and skills acquired in the PASGR courses have been instrumental. As a result, I have been able to publish a book chapter and journal article whose research was aided by research knowledge and skills mainly acquired at the PASGR trainings.

Jjuuko Dennis
University of Massachusetts Boston
It has shaped my career, opened doors and keeps opening wonderful windows of opportunity so far as my career as a lecturer and researcher is concerned. Insights and skills gained from these initiatives have helped me a lot to be successful in my job as a mentor of early career researchers in my university and as supervisor, internal assessor and external assessor of post graduate theses in my university and other universities.
Technology as a driver of efficient PASGR processes and procedures

A globalised world has led to the ever-growing importance of technology. Organisations that wish to keep up with the times must employ various technological platforms to improve their efficiency and reach. With this in mind, Prof. Tade Aina, the former Executive Director of PASGR, introduced an internal initiative called "Digital PASGR" during his tenure. This project led to the automation of a considerable number of PASGR processes, as well as an increase in the institution’s adoption of web and digital platforms.

The transition from manual to automated processes has significantly improved PASGR’s ability to carry out its fundamental mission across Africa’s vast expanse. Around 2015/2016, PASGR was required to furnish physical servers to as many as eleven universities participating in the MRPP programme. Today, with the help of the eLMS, the institution enrolls and provides remote support to thousands of users across the continent.

Also, after the outbreak of Covid-19, this digital readiness proved to be crucial. PASGR was able to efficiently use video conferencing and other online resources to reach a greater number of individuals than would have been possible with physical meetings. Longtime PASGR team member and ICT officer Elijah Kabari has observed the growth of PASGR being fueled by technology. He says:

“When I joined PASGR in 2011, the new initiative only had two 10-by-10-foot rooms at the British Council. Prior to becoming a fully-fledged organisation, we relied on the British Council offices for most things, including their Wi-Fi. Currently, we have the digital infrastructure to support universities and other partners across Africa. Technology has really been at the core of our organisation’s growth over the last decade.”

The institution offers the following online information and engagement tools:
- A website for the Utafiti Sera houses
- A website for the MRPP programme
- A website for the DPP programme
- A bespoke research proposals selection tool
- An online repository of electronic case studies (e-cases)
- An electronic learning management system (eLMS)

The office automation efforts proceeded in 2021 with the deployment of Microsoft Dynamics Business 365, a cloud-based enterprise resource planning (ERP) solution. This will be a significant improvement over the previous financial ERP, as it will integrate all essential organisational processes, including finance, payroll, grant management, budgeting, cash management, supply chain management, inventory, asset management, human resources, and monitoring and evaluation.

Charles Nyaga, Senior Finance officer says:

“From relying on one donor, PASGR is now a multi-donor funded organization. With diversified funding sources, we have grown in many aspects of the organisation, hence we have always strived to remain adaptive. Part of this is seen in our efforts to procure and incorporate a cutting-edge ERP solution so as to remain efficient as we grow.”
PASGR Receives an Award

Slightly a decade since it was first conceived in 2008, PASGR has come of age as a credible Pan-African organisation making a significant contribution towards research excellence in governance and public policy in Africa. External reviews of our programmes conducted in 2013 and 2017 have acknowledged the remarkable success of our three core programmes and their unique features.

In 2021, PASGR received an award from the Philosophers of Education Association of Nigeria (PEAN). PASGR was accorded this prestigious award at the Association's 40th Anniversary and Annual Conference held at the University of Nigeria, in Nsukka.

The award underscores the tremendous positive impact – made possible by the support of donors, partners and collaborators – that PASGR has had over the past 10 years since inception, manifested through various interventions in education and capacity enhancement in Africa.
The next decade: PASGR PLUS to enhance the PASGR’s value offer across the continent

"The objective is to establish a larger movement in which African researchers, practitioners, and policy makers may engage on public policy space and governance domains."

PASGR is considering innovative strategies to stimulate a continental-scale movement. As a Pan-African organisation, PASGR’s unique value offer will be in unifying African voices to decolonize knowledge and provide a safe environment where diverse actors in Africa’s governance and public policy sphere can converge to advance their shared interests.

Innovative initiatives such as PASGR PLUS (People. Learning. Understanding and Sharing) are expected to deliver this vision. This is a new intervention where PASGR aims to bring together not only students supported at the masters and doctoral level, but also senior scholars aspiring to create a platform where visitors can share data to improve the transparency and reproducibility of research in Africa, and to empower and increase the visibility of African voices in public policy and governance.

PASGR’s management is also contemplating how to support online platforms, such as online libraries, so that these can be utilized by scholars in universities without such resources. The objective is to establish a larger movement in which African researchers, African practitioners, and policy makers may engage on public policy space and governance domains, as well as identifying specific niches in which PASGR operates, so as to promote organic change on the continent.

This program will require effective partnerships across the continent, and PASGR is already engaged in discussions with a number of universities and other relevant institutions in countries such as Rwanda, Cameroon, Liberia and South Africa.
### Financial statements

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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<td>Property and equipment</td>
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<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Other accounts receivables</td>
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#### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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<td>Grant Income</td>
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#### EXPENDITURE

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<td>Research Programme</td>
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<td>Professional Development &amp; Training programme</td>
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<td>Higher Education Programme</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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#### SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR

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<td><strong>Surplus/(Deficit)</strong></td>
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Board

PASGR is governed by a Board currently chaired by Prof. Narciso Matos, Former Executive Director, Foundation for Community Development, Mozambique. The members are eminent personalities reflecting global leadership, as well as regional and international credibility in African policy-making, research, and higher education.

PROF. NARCISO MATOS

PROF. AMA DE-GRAFT AIKINS

PROF. KARUTI KANYINGA

PROF. GEORGE OUMA

MS. HELEN AMBASA

Management

Dr. Anthony Mveyange
Executive Director

Dr. Beatrice Muganda
Director, Higher Education

Constance Mwahunga
Head, Finance & Administration

Dr. Martin Atela
Programme Manager, Research & Policy

Dr. Pauline Ngimwa
Programme Manager, Professional Development & Training

Esther Simekha
Communications Assistant

Martha Ng’aru
Incoming Executive Assistant

Elijah Kabari
Information Technology

Edwin Rwigi
Programme Officer, Higher Education

Staff

Charles Nyaga
Senior Finance Officer

Stephen Kiruki
Senior Finance Officer

Colleta Njiri
Finance Assistant

Jim Kaketch
Programme Officer, Research and Policy

Mercy Limiri
Programme Assistant, Higher Education

Sylvester Ochieng
Senior M & E Officer

Jane Muema
Outgoing Executive Assistant
Get in Touch

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PASGR
Annual Report 2021