

In partnership with



# AFRICAN YOUTH PATHWAYS TO RESILIENCE AND SYSTEMS CHANGE (AYPREs)

**Launch and Inception**

📍 Alisa Hotels, Accra, Ghana

📅 10-12 June 2025



## Introduction

### Background of the programme

Youth unemployment crisis in Africa, often manifested through precarious employment, unemployment and fragility, has remained a significant challenge, leading to erosion of human capital, social exclusion and economic stagnation. While contextual factors driving youth resilience and how their lived experiences can shape effective programmes are now understood, what is not clear is how young people including those in marginalized groups (i.e. **refugees and displaced persons (RDPs), persons with disabilities (PWDs), rural young women and youth in informality**) can become a pathway to shift systems in ways that the contextual factors that act as barriers to better livelihoods are overcome.

This requires focusing on the voices and agency of all young women and men, including the marginalized groups, and understanding their own perspectives of dignified and fulfilling work as well as what systems change would look like. Our recent African Youth Aspiration and Resilience (AYAR) research project offered valuable insights, but gaps persist. First, the AYAR project did not fully capture the perspectives of marginalized groups including RDPs, PWDs, rural young women and youth in informality (refers to both youth in informal sector or economy and in informal settlement) as well youth working in Mastercard Foundation-supported enterprises (secondary youth in work). Second, while many young people view entrepreneurship as a viable path as evidenced in AYAR programme findings, we need a deeper understanding of their interests and challenges they contend with.

Third, there is need to understand how African youth resilience strategies compare with existing resilience frameworks including what is used by the Mastercard Foundation. Fourth, understanding youth's perceptions of sustainability and systems change and how they can lead in finding solutions to systemic barriers that limit their access to dignified and fulfilling livelihoods, is crucial for long-term impact. Lastly, it is important to continue to develop a critical mass of competent young researchers driving knowledge generation to contribute meaningfully to sustained youth employment research, programming and policy development across Africa.



<sup>1</sup> Work that is reputable and valued by society; work that provides a sense of satisfaction, purpose, and accomplishment; work that provides a reliable and sufficient source of income; and work that makes a young person feel respected.

<sup>2</sup>The African Youth and Resilience (AYAR) project, implemented across seven countries between 2021 and 2024, explored Africa's young women and men's aspirations, their perspectives on D&F work, and the journey towards success and achieving future lives including how they utilize resilience and adaptability. Findings are documented in publications accessible from <https://www.utafitiserap.org/publications/>

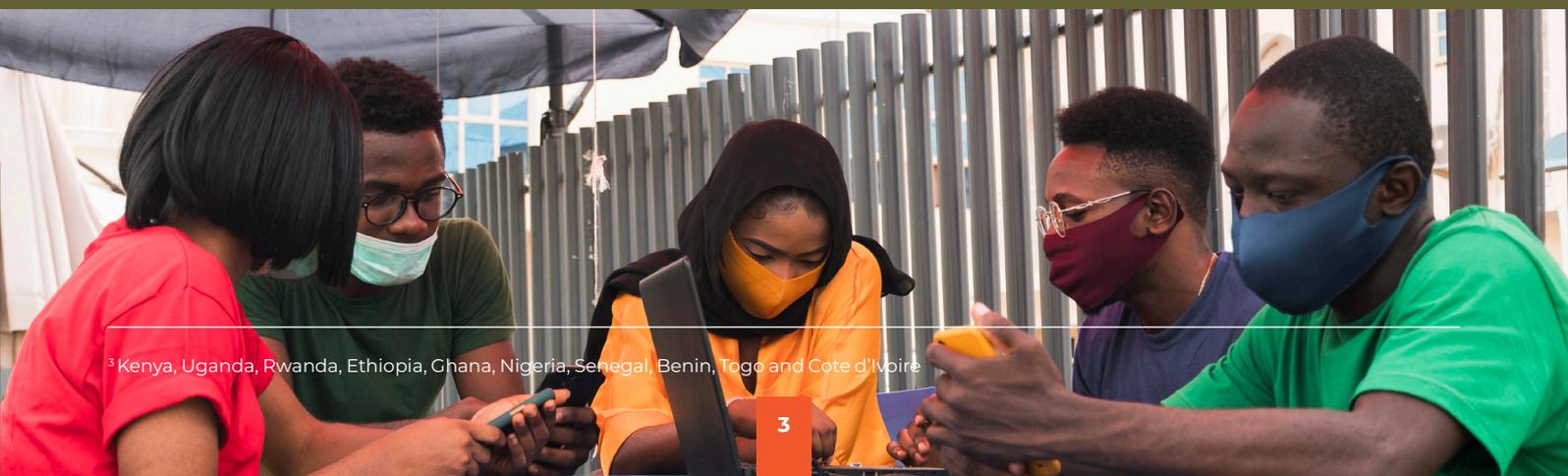
## The AYPReS programme

To address the above stated gaps, the Partnership for African Social and Governance research (PASGR), in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, has launched a research programme titled: **African Youth Pathways to Resilience and Systems Change (AYPReS)** that is being implemented across ten countries . The goal of the programme is to provide research evidence of factors that drive youth resilience and how their lived experiences, voice and agency, and perceptions on sustainability and systems change can be effectual in creating responsive programmes, policies and practices, that promote effective and sustainable youth access to dignified and fulfilling work.

By understanding young people's unique perspective on how systems should change and what drives their resilience, the research will provide first-hand insights of what youth consider as workable solutions to the unemployment challenge and hence advance better recommendations for effective policies and programming. To ensure continued youth-led production of knowledge around youth employment, research capacity strengthening of young researchers will be embedded in the research process through mentorship. To achieve this, the programme is guided by the following objectives:

### Objectives

1. To co-create metrics and gain an understanding of the voice and agency of youth and how these either impede or accelerate their journey to dignified and fulfilling work across sectors.
2. To analyze how perceptions of risk by individuals and groups (including RDPs and PWDs, youth in informality, rural young women) across different age brackets (15-24, 25-35 years) and contexts determine the level of preparedness to survive, cope and thrive against myriad socio-economic, religious, political and environmental threats.
3. To understand the obstacles faced by 'secondary youth in work' and how they can be supported to thrive.
4. To explore the perceptions of young people's perception and other system stakeholders on what constitutes sustainability and systems change, and their vision of a system that has transformed, including the type of system changes needed to achieve dignified and fulfilling work.
5. To foster a community of practice of young researchers focused on youth employment by implementing tailored mentorship programmes under Young Researchers Network, with the goal of sustaining knowledge generation and addressing emerging policy and practice challenges related to youth employment in Africa.



## Intervention Methods for the Programme

The programme will be anchored in the **Utafiti Sera approach**– PASGR’s innovative research-to-policy framework that supports meaningful engagement of multiple stakeholders in the research process and provides safe spaces for stakeholder engagements and knowledge exchange on a policy issue of interest. This approach will allow for a **participatory, youth-led methodology** that places youth’s voices at the centre of the intervention in a non-extractive manner to lead conversations on systems change and resilience. The understanding of youth perceptions, their voice and agency, resilience, and systems change will be framed through an **intersectional framework**. To ensure deliberate consideration of the socio-cultural norms and practices relating to youth employment, access to resources, training opportunities, as well as gender-based access to livelihoods, the programme will adopt a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion **(GESI) framework**. The programme will employ an interdisciplinary, mixed-methods research strategy. Both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods will be applied to ensure inclusivity of all categories of young women and men in the programme.



The sampling frame will focus on young women and men (aged 15-24 and 25-35 years), especially RDP youth, youth with disabilities, rural young women, youth in informality, and youth working in Mastercard Foundation’s supported- enterprises (secondary youth in work) across the ten countries of the programme.

An inherent component of the programme that goes beyond research evidence generation is nurturing a network of early career researchers into a vibrant network of researchers in youth employment. The goal is to build a strong pipeline of skilled young researchers who can consistently contribute to knowledge generation, and influence sustained research, programming, and policy development on youth employment across Africa. Therefore, early career researchers aged 35 years and below will be targeted for multifaceted research capacity development. These young researchers will intentionally be included in the research as Research Associated (RAs). They will be paired with experienced researchers (principal investigators -PI) for the purpose of experiential training and mentorship. This capacity development process will be complemented by advanced training workshops to hone the RAs research skills and technical capacities for policy-engaged research. To ensure broad dissemination and visibility of their work, the RAs will be supported to participate in conferences and other networking forums.

# The Programme Launch and Inception Meeting

## Activity scope

To facilitate an inclusive and collaborative approach to programme design and implementation across all countries, PASGR will convene an inception workshop on June 10-12, 2025. This event will bring together for the first time research teams from ten countries (i.e., Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire), the Programme Implementation Team (PIT) at PASGR, and the Mastercard Foundation staff supporting the partnership. This first convening is a

major co-creation event that seeks to officially launch the programme, establish common understanding among implementing partners, and align the objectives and responsibilities for all actors. This co-creation event is crucial for the success of this research programme, aimed at providing a robust foundation for generating impactful insights into the programme and creating synergy between partners and stakeholders.

## The Event Structure for the Inception Workshop

The three-day event will be a hybrid workshop combining face-to-face participants and online streaming for virtual participants. This will entail both the launch and an inception meeting of the AYPRoS programme and initial GESI Training. This combination will be important for country research teams and the PIT. The planned activities and the respective objectives are as follows:

## Specific Objectives

1. To officially launch the AYPRoS Programme before commencement of the regular implementation.
2. To onboard country research teams (including young researchers' network) by introducing them to the goals of the AYPRoS Programme, clarifying stakeholder roles and expectations, and collaboratively refining the research design through a co-creation process where we will review the project implementation plan, including key activities, timelines, and milestones.
3. To set up communication and reporting mechanisms.
4. To introduce the **Utafiti Sera**<sup>4</sup> (Research- Policy) approach adopted by PASGR.
5. To gain an understanding of the operational concepts of GESI as a fundamental consideration in all activities.

## Expected Outcomes

1. Identify key policy and programmatic areas requiring further engagement and advocacy to enhance youth's access to dignified and fulfilling work as we conclude a clearly defined research framework and theory of change (ToC).
2. Build consensus on key thematic areas, data collection methods, and analytical tools.
3. Establish strengthened collaboration among the country research teams and PIT and clarity on roles and responsibilities of each partner.
4. Formally establish the Young Researchers Network, with a clear understanding of the capacity development process.
5. Develop a comprehensive action plan for research implementation and periodic reporting.
6. Enhanced capacity of the research team in integrating GESI principles into the research.

## Expected Outputs

1. Joint inception report
2. Newspaper article/ News bulletin link
3. A blog
4. Short audio-visual clip
5. Young Researchers Network launched



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<sup>4</sup> Read more about Utafiti Sera and its achievements <https://www.utafitiserapasgr.org/>

## The Workshop Agenda

### Day 1 - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Time (GMT)	Agenda	Facilitator
<b>Chief Rapporteurs:</b>	Selected RAs- <b>Mary Anne Alouch</b> -Programme Officer PASGR <b>Boniface Munene</b> (RA-Kenya) <b>Fidele Mwizerwa</b> (RA-Rwanda) <b>Raymond Kakuba</b> (RA-Uganda)	
<b>Session I</b>	<b>Welcoming and Introduction</b>	
0900hrs -1000hrs	<p>Overview: Introductions, objectives, and ground rules <b>(15mins)</b></p> <p>Welcome Remarks: <b>Dr. Pauline Ngimwa</b>, Acting Executive Director <b>(10mins)</b></p> <p>Opening Remarks: <b>Prof Ama de-Graft Aikins</b>, The Chair, Research and Programmes Committee (RPC) of PASGR Board of Directors <b>(15 mins)</b></p> <p>Opening Remarks: <b>Prof Ayo Ojebode</b>- Mastercard Foundation <b>(20mins)</b></p>	<b>Dr Sam Oando</b> , Programme Manager, Research and Policy
<b>1000hrs-1040hrs</b>	<b>Programme Launch: Photo Session and Health Break</b> <b>Moderators: Rose and Sam</b>	
<b>Session II</b>	<b>Interconnection between AYAR and AYPRs</b>	Moderator: <b>Dr Thomas Yeboah</b> (PI- Ghana)
1040hrs -1120hrs	Keynote Speaker: <b>Ms. Prudence Ngwenya</b> , the Director of the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate(AUC).	<b>Dr Pauline Ngimwa</b>
1120hrs -1150hrs	History of AYAR programme and its impact	
11500hrs - 1300hrs	AYPRs ToC and logical framework, research objectives and methodology: <b>Q&amp;A All</b>	<b>Dr Sam Oando</b>
<b>1300hrs -1400hrs</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	

<b>Session III</b>	<b>Understanding Mastercard Foundation's Resilience Framework, systems change, RDPs, PWDs and AYPRs Theory of Change (ToC)</b>	Moderator: <b>Prof. Proscovia Ssentamu</b> (PI – Uganda)
1400hrs –1500hrs	Mastercard Foundation presentations: 1. Impact Strategy, Resilience Framework and systems change	<b>Stephen Aloo</b> (Senior Director, Impact Strategy, Analytics and Evaluation)
1500hrs -1600hrs	2. Approach to Safeguarding 3. Approach to working with Refugee and Displaced youth  <b>Q&amp;A All</b>	<b>Vijayabaskar Sivanesan</b> (Lead, Safeguarding) <b>Philip Were</b> (Lead, Refugees and Displaced Persons)
<b>Session IV</b>	<b>Detailed workplan and Reporting</b>	Moderator: <b>Prof. Mbaye Diene</b> (PI – Senegal)
1600hrs- 1640hrs	Programme workplan and reporting schedules:  Team feedback on the workplan  <b>Q &amp; A</b>	<b>Vanessa Bart-Plange</b> (Lead, Education & Transitions Program Research) & <b>Carolyne N. Mbatia</b> (Partner, Program Research-Country Programs)  <b>Rose Njage-</b> Programmes Officer - PASGR
1640hrs –1700hrs	<b>Day's Close out</b>	<b>Yamlaksira Begshaw</b> (RA-Ethiopia)
<b>1630hrs- 1700hrs</b>	<b>Evening Tea and Networking</b>	

## Day 2 - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Time (GMT)	Agenda	
<b>Chief Rapporteurs:</b>	<b>Rose Njage</b> <b>Mary Anne Alouch</b> <b>Oluwatumininu Omotoye</b> (RA-Nigeria) <b>Bezawit Edilu</b> (RA-Ethiopia)	
0900hrs -0910hrs	<b>Recap of day 1 and setting agenda for day 2</b>	<b>Akwesi Acquah</b> (RA-Ghana)
0900hrs –0930hrs	Keynote Speaker: <b>Prof Ama de-Graft Aikins</b> , The Chair, Research and Programmes Committee (RPC) of PASGR Board of Directors	<b>Dr. Pauline Ngimwa</b>
<b>Session I</b>	<b>Utafiti Sera – Intervention Framework</b>	
0930hrs – 1020hrs	Understanding Utafiti sera  <b>Q &amp; A All</b>	<b>Jim Kaketch</b> , Programme Officer – PASGR
<b>1020hrs-1035hrs</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
<b>Session II</b>	<b>AYPReS Research Design</b>	
1035hrs –1105hrs	Understanding research objectives and formulation of research questions and methodology.  <b>Q &amp; A All</b>	<b>Dr Daniel Doh</b> (PPI)
1105hrs-1305hrs	<b>Breakout group discussions</b> 1. Country-specific research implementation plans, challenges anticipated and how to overcome them. 2. Discuss the key country stakeholders you are likely to engage in the implementation of AYPReS programme and the formation of Utafiti Sera house.  <b>Group presentations and discussions (each group 20 mins)</b>	Moderator: <b>Dr Sam Oando</b>

1300hrs -1400hrs	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
<b>Session III</b>	<b>Capacity Strengthening: GESI Principles, RDP and PWD inclusion mechanisms, Young Researchers Network</b>	<b>Nkirote Laiboni/ Winnie Osulah/ Sarah Mwikali</b> (RDP/GESI/PWD Experts)
1400hrs-1500hrs	<b>Introduction:</b> General overview of GESI/RDP/PWD in Research	<b>Nkirote Laiboni/ Winnie Osulah/ Sarah Mwikali</b> (RDP/GESI/PWD Experts)
1500hrs-1600hrs	<b>Application:</b> GESI/RDP/PWD in Research Design & Methodology and dissemination	
1600hrs -1630hrs	<b>Launch of the Young Researchers Network:</b> planned activities and expectations	<b>Dr. Pauline Ngimwa &amp; Prof. Ayo Ojebode</b>
1630hrs -150hrs	Reflections of the day's activities.	<b>Oudanou Damghane</b> (RA-Togo)
<b>1630hrs -1700hrs</b>	<b>Evening Tea and Networking</b>	

## Day 3 - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Time (GMT)	Agenda	
0900hrs -0910hrs	Recap of day 2 and setting agenda for day 3	<b>Angella Ndaka</b> (PI-Kenya)
<b>Chief Rapporteurs:</b>	<b>Jim Kaketch</b> <b>Ouedraogo Mohamed</b> (RA- Cote d'Ivoire) <b>Jennifer Mongbo</b> (RA-Benin)	
<b>Session I</b>	<b>Detailed workplan and Reporting (by Research teams supported by stakeholders)</b>	Moderator: <b>Rose Njage</b>
0910hrs -1040hrs	<b>Presentation on Final Work plans for all the countries, 15 mins each)</b>	<b>PIs</b>
1040hrs-1100hrs	<b>Health Break</b>	
1100hrs – 1130hrs	<b>Presentation on Final Work plans for all the countries, 15 mins each)</b>	<b>PIs</b>
<b>Session II</b>	<b>Reporting and Financial Accountability for Country Research Teams</b>	Moderator- <b>El Hadji Habib</b> (RA Senegal)
1130hrs-1300hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding Financial Accountability in Research Programme</li> <li>Proper Documentation</li> <li>Financial Reporting Requirements</li> </ul> <p><b>Q &amp; A</b></p>	<b>Mathew Ntaganira-</b> Mastercard Foundation  <b>Steve Kiruki</b> -Senior Finance Officer
1300hrs -1400hrs	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
1400hrs-1430hrs	<b>Key Highlights and Way Forward</b> Sam Oando	
1430hrs-1500hrs	<b>Closing Remarks Executive Director, PASGR &amp; Mastercard Foundation</b>	

## Experts



**Dr Musau Sarah** is a scholar, qualitative researcher, international affairs specialist and disability inclusion expert.

She has over 10 years experience in the disability sector, at national, regional, and international level.

She has worked and consulted for high profile organizations including UNICEF, UNFPA, British High Commission, USAID, among others, in the USA, Caribbean, East and Southern Africa region, among others.

Her research interests include interdisciplinary research, disability rights, international affairs, negotiations, Intergovernmental organizations, Nile River conflict, diplomacy, African Affairs, the UN, the AU, and the Horn of Africa. She's a part time lecturer at Riara University at the School of International Relations and Diplomacy.

Academically, Dr Musau holds a PhD in international affairs and diplomacy, masters in international development, and bachelors in criminal justice.

Based in Nairobi, **Nkirote Laiboni** has over 14 years of international experience in humanitarian, development and human rights programming and policy advocacy in sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and the UK.

Thanks to her lived experience as a migrant - both as a child and as a young adult - Nkirote has always been interested in the philosophical, psychological and socio-political perspectives of migration. She has worked with international NGOs on refugee response programming and migrant workers' rights across sub-Saharan Africa, including on programmes that provided humanitarian support to refugees in refugee settlements in Kenya and Uganda, and programmes that supported African women working in the Middle East to advocate for their rights. Nkirote's professional experience also includes humanitarian advocacy and coordination, including in her role as ICVA's Deputy Representative for East and Southern Africa, where she supported humanitarian NGOs in the region to individually and collectively influence policy and practice around forced displacement, humanitarian financing, and humanitarian coordination.

She holds a graduate degree in International Law and Human Rights from the University for Peace in Costa Rica.



**Winnie Osulah** is an International Development practitioner and an experienced Gender, Youth and Social Inclusion programming specialist with strong expertise in leading the development of evidence-based gender, youth, and social inclusion strategies with over 20 years of experience in both multi-sectoral development and humanitarian sectors across Africa. She specializes in gender mainstreaming, integration and strategic learning, with strong expertise in research, policy advocacy and engagement, organizational development and inclusive results-based management.

Her experience is from a longstanding career in the INGO sector, collaborating with the private sector and governments – local and regional, towards building their capacities in gender transformative programming. She is a dedicated professional working towards advancing gender equality across various sectors, with a focus on - agriculture, trade, nutrition, food systems, livelihoods, governance, health, education and youth and women's empowerment.

Ms. Osulah's work is currently focused on advancing inclusive agricultural transformation, with a commitment to sustainably growing Africa's food systems, towards catalyzing employment opportunities for young women across Africa in the agriculture sector.

## Country Team- Ghana



**Thomas Yeboah** holds a PhD in Development Studies from the University of Cambridge, UK and has 15 years' experience working on issues around international development, migration and development, migration governance, youth and gender dynamics of rural livelihoods with special focus on youth employment in both rural and urban areas. Thomas' research also focuses on youth migration including migration journeys, decision-making, and lived realities in the realm of social and spatial mobilities, youth imagined futures as well as how young people engage in the rural economy and its potential to provide decent and sustainable employment. His methodological expertise spans participatory qualitative and visual methods.

**Akwesi Acquah, PhD** is a public policy and governance specialist with expertise in digital health innovation, health financing, and social policy reform in Africa. He holds a PhD in Public Management and Governance from the University of Johannesburg. Prior to undertaking his PhD, he obtained a master's degree in development studies from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and a bachelor's degree in management studies from the University of Cape Coast.

As an early career researcher, he is passionate about using evidence-informed policy research to drive inclusive development across Africa. He has published in various top-tier academic journals and has presented research papers at leading scopus indexed conferences in the UK, South Africa, Thailand and Kenya.

He has previously served in a professional capacity as the Training and Development Manager at Ghana's National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), overseeing staff capacity building, performance management, and digital learning platforms.



**Diana Love-Luck Dadzie** is a seasoned Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Analyst with over ten years of expertise in research, data collection and analysis, project coordination, and designing and implementing MEL systems, frameworks and tools. Her work spans key sectors including agriculture, economic management and governance, gender, and youth employment and skills development. As the MEL lead for flagship projects at the African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET), she has significantly contributed to shaping the transformation agenda of African governments in the continent.

Diana's MEL expertise at ACET extends to major international collaborations. These include the World Bank/Think Africa Partnership's "Support to Regional Knowledge Capacity on Economic Transformation, Resilience and Recovery Project" and the GIZ-funded Learning Partnerships for Economic Transformation. Additionally, she has been involved in the Mastercard Foundation's "Strengthening Education and Learning to Deliver a 4IR-Ready Workforce," among other initiatives.

She has worked with notable organizations such as Educational Consulting Success (ECOS), SNV Netherlands, Ghana's Ministries of Agriculture and Trade and Industry, the Research and Evaluation Center, and the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research.

Diana is committed to promoting initiatives that empower marginalized populations and enhances human well-being. She holds a Master's degree in Economics and Monitoring and Evaluation, a certificate in Planning for Monitoring and Evaluation, and a Bachelor's degree in Integrated Development Studies. Passionate about delivering impactful outcomes, Diana continues to drive positive change in development and policy across the continent.

## Country Team- Kenya



**Dr. Angella Ndaka** is a distinguished scholar with a PhD in Sociology and Gender Studies from the University of Otago, New Zealand, and a Master of Public Policy from the Australian National University. Her expertise lies in Sustainable AI, Gender and youth transformation, and the sociotechnical dimensions of emerging technologies, particularly in economy, education and agri-food systems. Currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of the Witwatersrand, she leads projects on AI economy, policy foresight and the future of work for marginalized African youth. Angella has worked with global institutions including FAO and Athena Infonomics, driving inclusive AI strategies, policy frameworks and interventions. Her thought leadership in user-centred, equity-driven AI has earned her global recognition, including the 2023 Women in AI (APAC) Cultural Leadership Award and a spot among the 100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics. She is a passionate advocate for co-designed, sustainable AI grounded in economic and social equity, policy relevance, and local context.

**Bonface Munene** is a Research Associate with the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) under the African Youth Pathways to Resilience and Systems Change (AYPRoS) programme. He is an Economist and Policy Analyst with over five years of experience in youth employment research, public policy analysis, and academic instruction across Kenya and Africa. Bonface holds an MA in Economics from Egerton University and is currently pursuing a PhD in Economics at the University of Nairobi. He has previously worked with KIPPRA, the Policy Studies Institute (Ethiopia), and the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC). His research has focused on youth in informality, TVET graduate employability, and gendered access to opportunities. Passionate about inclusive development, Bonface is also an instructor at Zetech University, where he mentors youth and leads research capacity-building initiatives. He brings a strong background in qualitative and quantitative methods, stakeholder engagement, and youth-led participatory research.



**Eunice Karimi** is a dedicated early-career development researcher with a focus on cross-generational policy advocacy in urban development, governance, and ecological sustainability. She has co-led projects on digital transformation in Africa, governance policy uptake, and advancing data utilization in civil society across East Africa. Her work emphasizes inclusive, evidence-based approaches, and is passionate about driving sustainable development through collaborative research, policy engagement, and innovation.

Eunice holds a Master of Development Studies (MDeV) degree from the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, and a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) degree.

## Country Team- Ethiopia



**Adamnesh A. Bogale** specializes in gender and migration with expertise in the philosophy of sex and gender, feminist epistemology, and justice. Her work bridges the intersection of migration, inequality, economic transformation and leadership to reimagine pathways for fair futures in the Global South. With a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, she critically examines how intertwined inequalities through intersectionality shape and are shaped by migration governance, forced displacement, gender economics, and the lived experiences of young people navigating precarious systems. Her research highlights resilience of communities, particularly youth and women, by focusing on their agency through structural barriers. She is especially interested in understanding the changing dynamics of human mobility including shifts in narratives of displacement, migration brokerage, clandestine networks and global policy discourse. Her work uncovers how systemic settings in humanitarian responses and governance frameworks impact circumstances of forced displacement and/or migration.

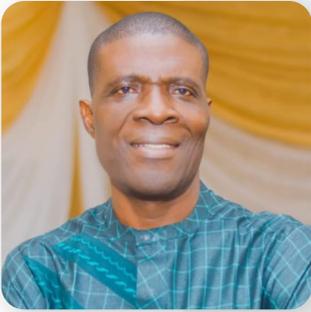
Adamnesh has led multi-site, high-impact research projects and consulted prominent international organizations including but not limited to the UN, World Bank Group, University of Sussex, Guttmacher Institute, Cordaid, and MasterCard Foundation. Her expertise is instrumental in shaping global discussions on gender and migration influencing change in narratives and policy. Adamnesh holds LLB, MA in Regional and Local Development Studies, and a PhD in Social Development. She engages in curriculum development and mentoring future leaders through teaching and supervision at multiple educational levels.

**Bezawit Liro** is a researcher and development practitioner who applies evidence and design to co-create inclusive, youth-centered solutions across Africa. Her work blends participatory research, political economy analysis, and human-centered design to address systemic barriers faced by marginalized groups including young women, refugees, informal workers, and persons with disabilities. With a background in digital innovation, GESI, and livelihoods, she brings a creative and data-informed approach to research and programming. Bezawit has led mixed-methods studies that integrate lived experiences with policy analysis, informing dignified work strategies and inclusive economic development. From grassroots engagements to multi-stakeholder dialogues, she bridges research and implementation facilitating mentorship spaces, policy conversations, and digital pathways that strengthen resilience for underserved communities.



**Yamlaksira Begashaw** is a legal and project management professional driven by a deep commitment to human rights, social justice, and inclusive development. With experience leading national initiatives on media freedom, digital rights, and civic engagement. She provides clear direction for her team, balancing confident decision-making with understanding others. Yamlaksira combines analytical thinking with a strong sense of purpose, translating complex challenges into practical, people-focused solutions. She embraces collaboration, listens with intention, and trusts in communities as key drivers of change. Her vision is to shape inclusive policy and impactful research that reflect lived realities and empower those often left unheard.

## Country Team- Nigeria



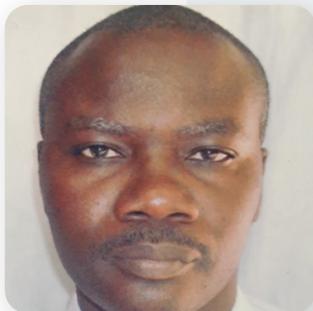
**Dr Babatunde Ojebuyi** is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Communication and Language Arts, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He got his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the same University, where he has been teaching since 2008. Ojebuyi has extensively published in local and international academic outlets. He has participated in and led different youth-focused research projects on subjects such as community-based crime prevention, youth resilience and aspirations, and youth unemployment. His research focus includes Journalism and Media Studies, Health Communication, Political Communication, New Media, and Development Communication. A seasoned communication consultant, Dr. Ojebuyi is a member of different professional associations.

**Dickson Oluwasina Ogunkunle** is a self-motivated researcher with BA and MA degrees in Communication and Language Arts from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He is currently a PhD candidate in the same department. Between 2023 and 2025, Dickson worked as a Research Associate on an intervention-based project branded as ARISE&WIN at the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. As a member of the Nigerian team, his research expertise and communicative skills were vital in actualising the project's objectives. Before assuming this role, Dickson was a visiting researcher at Technical University of Munich, Germany, through a collaboration with Dr Stefanie Walter on a climate change and intergroup conflicts project. Dickson's research interests span interdisciplinary areas, including Journalism, Political Communication, Media and Gender Equity, and New Media, with a strong focus on qualitative methods/design. He has published peer-reviewed articles in reputable international and local outlets.



**Oluwatumininu Omotoye** is a legal scholar, researcher, and lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. She holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) and a Master of Laws (LL.M) from the University of Ibadan and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 2014. Oluwatumininu has worked as an advocate in law firms and as an in-house company secretary. She has engaged in policy-focused projects addressing employment and gender equity. As a lecturer and mentor, Oluwatumininu collaborates closely with young people, establishing herself as a strong advocate for youth empowerment across Africa. Oluwatumininu believes in initiating innovative solutions in the practice of law and is committed to utilising research to shape inclusive, evidence-based policies that promote youth development, gender equality, and social justice. Oluwatumininu is currently a Doctoral Candidate at the Faculty of Law, University of Ibadan.

## Country Team- Senegal



**Mbaye Diene** is a full Professor of Economics, at the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar. He has over 25 years' experience in teaching and research in economics. He has taught in universities in Africa and Europe. He is a researcher at the Consortium pour la Recherche Economique et Sociale (CRES) and his research domains are : Macroeconomics - Microeconomics - Development economics - Inequality - Poverty - Social protection - Employment – Econophysics He has publications in reviews as : Economic Theory, Macroeconomic Dynamics, Structural Change and Economic Dynamics, Journal of African Development, West African Economic Journal, Development, African Development Perspectives, etc. He has led many research programs with partners as the Government of Senegal, GIZ, IDRC, LAREM, PASGR, UNDP, AERC, etc.

**Bineta Dia** is an expert in trade policy and economic development, specializing in value chains and international trade negotiations. As an international consultant, she has solid expertise in regional economic integration, notably in the UEMOA, ECOWAS and African Union areas. Thanks to her experience in research and public policy formulation, Bineta Dia can play an important role in evaluating youth employment policies, analyzing stakeholders and proposing evidence-based strategies to improve entrepreneurship and access to dignified employment in Africa. Her mastery of qualitative and quantitative research methods and her involvement with marginalized populations (young people in the informal sector, RDPs and people with disabilities) enable her to bring an inclusive approach to research. Her experience in international negotiations and her network with African decision-makers are major assets in facilitating stakeholder engagement and promoting sustainable economic policies adapted to African realities.



**El Hadji Mouhamed El Habib FALL** is a PhD candidate in Economics at Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, where he also serves as a part-time lecturer. His research focuses primarily on public debt, economic growth, and public policy, with a particular interest in Sub-Saharan African countries. He is actively engaged in empirical analysis related to debt sustainability and the effectiveness of development policies.

He is proficient in several quantitative and econometric analysis tools, including EViews, Stata, SPAD, and MATLAB, as well as management software such as Sage, and standard office tools like Excel, Word, and PowerPoint.

A polyglot, he speaks French, Pulaar, and Wolof fluently, and has a working knowledge of English. His profile combines academic rigor, technical expertise, and a strong commitment to research for development.

## Country Team- Uganda



**Prof. Proscovia Ssentamu**, I am an Associate Professor of Education and Head of Quality Assurance at Uganda Management Institute, and Deputy Vice Chancellor - designate (Academic Affairs) at Uganda National Institute for Teacher Education. With over 20 years of experience, I am an educator, researcher, and consultant specializing in Curriculum, Teacher Education, and Quality Assurance in education. I have supported numerous institutions in curriculum development, capacity development, and institutionalizing quality practices. A published author in international journals (ORCID: 0000-0003-4853-3968), I have contributed to research and projects funded by the EU, World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, USAID, MasterCard Foundation, and other global agencies. I serve on various boards, including Director of Julius Nyerere Leadership Center, co-chair of the Uganda National Bureau of Standards Technical Committee of the Education and Learning Services Standards, and former chair of the DIGI-FACE Quality Assurance Body of 23 Germany Academic Exchange Services (DAAD)-funded African [higher education] Centers of Excellence.

**Miriam Katusiime** is a teacher and researcher with background in the Information Communication Technology integration in education, refugee access to education and Monitoring and Evaluation. She has experience in qualitative and mixed research methodologies and has supported a number of developmental projects with great focus on education access for displaced youths and marginalised populations in Uganda. Has led a mixed method research study on the integration of ICT in teaching and learning in secondary schools in Uganda. Miriam is passionate about using data to improve program effectiveness and inform policies with her recent work on refugees' access to higher education in Adjumani. Miriam holds a postgraduate diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation from Uganda Management Institute, a Master of Education in Research from Moi University and a bachelors of Arts with Education from Uganda Christian University.



**Raymond Kakuba** is a youth development and policy research professional based in Uganda, with a strong background in program design, mixed-methods research, and systems thinking. He has led youth-centred initiatives across East Africa, focusing on sexual and reproductive health, economic justice, and meaningful youth participation. Raymond brings expertise in qualitative and quantitative methodologies, including participatory research, political economy analysis, and stakeholder engagement. Passionate about evidence-based advocacy, he is committed to amplifying youth voices in policy and practice. He currently serves as the Research Associate (RA) for Uganda under the AYPReS Programme.

## Country Team- Rwanda



**Dr. Jean Baptiste Nsengiyumva** is Rwanda's Principal Investigator and currently serves as the Head of Policy, Advocacy, and Cooperation at WaterAid Rwanda. He is also a Part-Time Lecturer at the University of Lay Adventists of Kigali (UNILAK) and a Member of the Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN) Rwanda. He holds a PhD in Environmental Policy and Resilience from the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, an MSc in Governance and Spatial Information Management from the University of Twente (Netherlands), and a Certificate in Resilience and Leadership from Makerere University (Uganda). With over 15 years of experience, Dr. Nsengiyumva has worked extensively in research, policy analysis, advocacy, risk management, youth and gender engagement, WASH, poverty, and development. He has coordinated various national and international research projects and authored high-impact publications in leading international journals. His work focuses on evidence-based policy change and inclusive, resilient development.

**Dr. Ange Cynthia Umuhire** holds a PhD in Space Sciences and currently serves as a Lecturer at the University of Rwanda. She is also a Research Associate with the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR), contributing to the multinational policy and practice-oriented research programme African Youth Pathways to Resilience and Systems Change (AYPREs). Previously, Dr. Umuhire worked as a Space Science Analyst at the Rwanda Space Agency (RSA), where she led and supported several strategic initiatives, including the Intelsat Space STEM Program and ISONscope. Her contributions have significantly advanced the integration of space-based solutions into science-policy frameworks and STEM education. Her research career has spanned national and international platforms, with active participation in scientific conferences and workshops across Africa, Europe, North America, and Canada. She is notably among the few African researchers to have received advanced training at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) within the Heliophysics Science Division.



Dr. Umuhire has received several prestigious recognitions, including the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Sub-Saharan Africa Young Talents Award (2022) and the Grace Hopper Abie Award (2023). She has also secured competitive research grants from institutions such as the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and the African Astronomical Society. Beyond academia, Dr. Umuhire served as an International Consultant with the World Bank Group. Within the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), she supported strategic monitoring and evaluation to enhance resilience-building across African space programs. In collaboration with the Rwanda and Kenya Space Agencies, she conducted a comprehensive study on the role of space technologies in strengthening disaster preparedness, with findings presented among the World Bank's key deliverables for 2024. She also supports organizations such as the Mawazo Institute in advisory and research capacities. A committed advocate for gender equity in STEM, Dr. Umuhire actively engages in mentorship programs and women's networks that promote science education for girls and young women. She firmly believes that empowering women through education and mentorship is critical to building a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future.



**Fidele Mwizerwa** is a Lecturer, Environmental and Social Researcher, and Policy Analyst based in Kigali, Rwanda. With dual Master's degrees in Environmental Sciences and Geo-Information Science, he specializes in youth employment, social resilience, environmental governance, and inclusive policy development. He has led and contributed to research and consultancy projects with institutions like UNHCR, GIZ, and the World Bank. As Founder of Ganza Green Solutions Ltd and Lead Expert at RAPEP, Fidele combines academic expertise with practical solutions to promote sustainable development, climate resilience, and social equity. He is passionate about participatory research and evidence-based policy reform across Africa.

## Country Team- Togo



**Mr. Akilou Amadou** is Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Management (FASEG) of the University of Lomé-Togo and Head of the Research Center in Applied Economics and Management of Organizations (CREAMO). A specialist in Macroeconomics and International Economic Relations, his areas of teaching and research focus mainly on economic growth, trade and financial openness and issues related to economic development.

I am **Moubarak Koriko**, an Assistant Professor and researcher in economics with a particular interest in digital transformation, innovation systems, and development policy in Sub-Saharan Africa. My work focuses on how the adoption of information and communication technologies (ICTs) can enhance economic inclusion, strengthen productive capacities, foster integration into global value chains, and promote the social inclusion of vulnerable groups. Becoming part of the PASGR network through the AYPReS Programme is a valuable opportunity to contribute to high-quality, policy-relevant research while engaging with a dynamic community of scholars and practitioners committed to advancing evidence-based solutions to Africa's development challenges.



**Damghane Oudanou**, PhD in Economics. My research focus on gender and human capital. I also have an interest in the fields of climate change, entrepreneurship, coding, and data analysis. I developed knowledge in applied economics, public policy analysis, and both qualitative and quantitative research methods. I like learning new things and I share the values of honesty, integrity, and hard work. I'm available for any collaboration on projects, data collect and treatment, monitoring and evaluation, research paper writing... My goal is to pursue relevant research and engage in strategic partnerships to inform policies aimed at strengthening economic resilience and fostering inclusive growth.

## Country Team- Ivory Coast



**Dr. Helena Abozan** is a social science researcher and expert in gender, governance, and countering disinformation, based in Côte d'Ivoire. Holding a Ph.D. in Philosophy (Alassane Ouattara University), her research focuses on Kant's principle of publicity and its relevance to African societal challenges. She has worked with institutions like the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the Governance and Development Research Program (CAMES), implementing projects on media literacy, community training, and advocacy to promote democratic integrity and women's empowerment. As the founder of initiatives like FEMENISIM'LEAD, she bridges academic rigor and grassroots activism. Her publications examine gender, political power, and civil society dynamics. With some skills in project management, scientific communication, and policy analysis, she combines analytical depth with a commitment to feminist and human rights causes.

My name is **Mingon Laetitia**, I hold a master's degree in development economics, a master's degree that I obtained by working on the impact of insecurity on education outcomes in the French-speaking Sahel countries. Using the method of double least squares, I was able to highlight the nature of the impact of insecurity on education in the French-speaking Sahel countries. I also had to talk about how populations affected by insecurity in this area of the Sahel were able to develop a certain resilience in the face of this situation. I also have a master's degree in labor and human resources economics. After obtaining a baccalaureate (D series) from the Lycée d'excellence Mamie Adjoua in Yamoussoukro, I opted for a degree in Economics at the Alassane Ouattara University in Bouaké. During my university studies, the fundamentals of economics and the learning of quantitative and qualitative research methods informed our courses and academic materials. Dynamic, optimistic, and courageous, I am proficient in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint office tools, a skill I acquired through self-teaching.



**Mohamed Ouedraogo** is a development economist with over nine years of experience in monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL), with a strong focus on gender, food security, and rural development. He has worked with leading organizations such as PanAfricare, IGNITE/AGRA, and Search for Common Ground, supporting project design, beneficiary targeting, gender-sensitive evaluations, and capacity building for local partners. Mohamed is skilled in both quantitative and qualitative research methods and has expertise in data management and visualization tools including KoboCollect, SPSS, Power BI, and QGIS. He has provided training on gender and nutrition-sensitive planning across several West African countries and is fluent in French, English, Mooré, and Dioula. Mohamed brings a solid track record in coordinating multi-sectoral programs in humanitarian and development contexts and is committed to improving outcomes for vulnerable populations through evidence-based decision-making and inclusive strategies.

## Country Team- Benin



**Majorie Jennifer Kayode Mongbo** is an economist and researcher specializing in climate change economics, sustainable development, and public policy analysis. She holds a Ph.D. in Climate Change Economics from the WASCAL program at Cheikh Anta Diop University (Dakar), and a Master's in Applied Economics from the NPTCI program. Jennifer has collaborated with institutions such as Climate Analytics, CODESRIA, and GGGI, contributing to climate adaptation research, impact evaluations, and national policy development. She has undertaken research stays at academic institutions in Africa and Europe, strengthening her expertise in development economics and climate-related research. Her skills span econometrics, data analysis, and impact evaluation, supporting her commitment to evidence-based policymaking for inclusive and sustainable development in Africa.

**Emile Sègbégnon Sonehekpon**, has a Phd in quantitative economics at the National School of Statistics and Applied Economics (ENSEA) Côte d'Ivoire. Emile's skills in quantitative techniques will help the PASGR program to achieve its objectives, especially in statistical and econometric analyses that will lead to the formulation of economic policies useful for Africa and the world of research. Émile has published numerous articles, including two in highly respected international journals (Journal of Financial Economic Policy and Agricultural Finance Review). The fact that he has been able to publish in such reputable journals testifies to the relevance and quality of his research.





