

PAA 2022 Workshop Proposal: African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) and the Population Reference Bureau (PRB)

Proposed title:

The role of population studies in development policies and programs: North to South
Dialogue on models that work

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Organizers:

	Name	Affiliation	Email
1.	Dr Rose Oronje	The African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)	rose.oronje@afidep.org
2.	Dr Bernard Onyango	The African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)	bernard.onyango@afidep.org
3.	Angeline Siparo	Population Reference Bureau (PRB)	asiparo@prb.org
4.	Elizabeth Kahurani	The African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)	elizabeth.kahurani@afidep.org
5.	Gaye Agesa	Population Reference Bureau (PRB)	gagesa@prb.org

- **Objectives, goals, and expected outcomes**

Population dynamics are central to achieving sustainable development goals. It is critical to have scientific evidence from population studies underpin development policies and programs. But science application to development efforts at times faces a number of barriers that includes lack of quality, relevant research that meets the needs of decision-makers (Motani, et al, 2019)¹. In addition, studies (Murunga et al 2020)² have shown that in some cases, researchers lack capacity and expertise needed to expand scope and space for science in decision-making processes. However, there is a growing number of scientists from North and South that are applying conventional models in different contexts to successfully influence evidence use in development.

The overall objective of the workshop is to foster dialogue and highlight requisite skills necessary to making population data accessible and relevant. The workshop will provide a platform for North-South exchange between population scientists on effective tools and approaches in engaging policymakers to influence decisions and policies. With the use of

¹ Motani, P., Van de Walle, A., Aryeetey, R. *et al.* Lessons learned from Evidence-Informed Decision-Making in Nutrition & Health (EVIDENT) in Africa: a project evaluation. *Health Res Policy Sys* **17**, 12 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12961-019-0413-6>

² Murunga, V. I., Oronje, R. N., Bates, I., Tagoe, N., & Pulford, J. (2020). Review of published evidence on knowledge translation capacity, practice and support among researchers and research institutions in low- and middle-income countries. *Health Research Policy and Systems*, 18:16(<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12961-019-0524-0>), 21.

case studies, participants will learn of successful models that population scientists can use to support policymakers to use evidence effectively in order to achieve sustainable development goals in different contexts.

The workshop will contribute towards building a network of population scientists in different continents championing evidence use in different spaces and platforms. We hope to initiate long lasting collaborations to build synergies and document lessons on the different models that work in having evidence from population studies inform development policies.

The workshop is based on a research communication policy training program that PRB and AFIDEP have implemented over a period of four years. The organizers have combined years of experience working to bridge the gap between evidence and policy. They have also facilitated numerous workshops, trainings and mentored researchers to become champions in making science relevant for development.

- **How the workshop will benefit PAA 2022 attendees.**

The workshop targets population studies researchers attending PAA 2022. The sessions will particularly be of benefit to researchers who may not know or appreciate the huge potential for impact their work can have in policy change that promotes transformational development and improved livelihoods. Discussions at the workshop will build appreciation on the need for scientists to play a more active role in championing use of evidence for development. The forum will offer opportunities to network and collaborate beyond the conference for continued sharing, learning and documenting best practice.

- **Target audience and estimated number of participants (minimum and maximum).**

The workshop will target both seasoned and early career researchers attending PAA 2022 and can hold a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 25 participants.

- Preferred workshop day: **Wednesday, April 6**
- Proposed workshop duration: **1 day**
- Whether or not you'd be willing to convert to an online workshop if necessary.
Yes, we would be willing to convert to an online workshop
- A/V needs beyond what is provided.
A/V provided is sufficient
- Short biographical sketches of presenters with a link to a current CV.

Dr Rose Oronje PhD

Rose is a development policy and communications specialist with over 15 years' experience in development research-to-policy communications and conducting policy analysis research. With a strong background in communication and policy analysis, Rose has extensive experience in conducting analyses of policies and policy environments, and translating and communicating research to policymakers and other general audiences (including the mass

media). She also has extensive experience in designing and delivering capacity building programs in knowledge translation, including research-to-policy communications, but also research utilization by policymakers, media practitioners, and civil society.

At AFIDEP, Rose provides strategic leadership in the design and delivery of evidence uptake research and interventions. Her publications have focused mainly on the areas of health policymaking, and research-to-policy in the health sector. Prior to joining AFIDEP, Rose headed the Policy Engagement and Communications unit at the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) from 2004-2009.

Rose earned her Ph.D. from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, United Kingdom. She also has a Master's Degree in Communications from the University of Nairobi, and a Bachelor's degree in Information Science from Moi University.

[Link to CV](#)

Dr Bernard Onyango PhD

Bernard is a Senior Research and Policy Analyst and the BUILD Program PED Director at the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP). His role includes the synthesis of research evidence and its translation into various policy relevant formats to enhance research uptake to impact policy and program implementation. He also plays a critical role in shaping and implementing the communication and advocacy agenda at AFIDEP and leads engagements with stakeholders around Africa. His recent work has focused on the demographic dividend across Africa and advocating for multisectoral integrated approaches to Population Environment and Development (PED) for sustainable development.

Bernard obtained his Doctorate and Master's degrees from Brown University where he was a trainee at the Populations Studies and Training Center (PSTC). He is also an alumnus of the PRB Policy Communication Fellows Training Program. Previously, he worked at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) & US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Research and Public Health Collaboration Demographic Surveillance System in Kenya. He is a member of International Union of the Scientific Study of Populations (IUSSP), Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) and the Population Association of America (PAA).

[Link to CV](#)

Angeline Siparo

Angeline Siparo is PRB's senior technical advisor based in Kenya (East Africa) for International Programs. She joined PRB in 2015. Siparo's focus is on rolling out the USAID-funded PACE—Policy, Advocacy, and Communication Enhanced for Population and Reproductive Health—project and on fostering new business for the Africa region. She is the current board chair of the National AIDS Control Council in Kenya. She has worked as regional manager East Africa, Futures Group; team leader, Centre for African Family Studies for the UNAIDS Eastern Africa Technical Support Facility; and country director, Catholic Medical Mission Board. Siparo holds a master's degree in psychology and organizational development, and a bachelor's degree in psychology, both from the United States International University–Africa. She also holds several certificates in management and policy. She speaks English, Kiswahili, Maasai, and several other Kenyan languages.

[Link to CV](#)

Elizabeth Kahurani

Elizabeth is the policy engagement and communication manager at AFIDEP. She is a science policy communication specialist with 15 years' experience working with research organizations to promote use of evidence in decision making for government policies, and global development frameworks that enhance sustainability such as the sustainable development goals. Elizabeth provides strategic direction and lead teams to implement research uptake plans and activities at a global scale in Africa, Southeast Asia, Latin America as well as at international events. These include establishing and maintaining relationships with policy makers, government bodies and processes, networks, advisory groups, media; Conducting policy reviews; Writing and publishing concise, appealing content from complex research in order to make it easily accessible to both technical and non-technical audiences. She has also delivered research policy communication capacity strengthening training for various programs. Elizabeth has a Masters in International Studies and undergraduate in Media and Communication.

[Link to CV](#)

Gaye Agesa

Gaye is the PRB's Eastern and Southern Africa Region's Senior Communications Manager. She is a policy advocacy and communications professional with over 15 years of experience in strategic communications, program management, and policy advocacy in the private sector, public service, and international development organizations. She also has vast experience managing multi-sectoral partnerships, strengthening evidence-informed advocacy and policymaking, sub-grantee management, and community engagement. Prior to joining PRB, she served at the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) where she led a team responsible for developing advocacy, communications and monitoring, evaluation, and learning strategies that helped advance efforts to catalyze broad impact through uptake and use of evidence for domestic financing in health and immunization. She has also served in various capacities at Plan International, Amref Health Africa, Welthungerhilfe, Government of Kenya, and Nation Media Group.

She holds an MA in communications from the University of Westminster, London, an MBA in strategic management from the University of Nairobi, and a Bachelor of Education (Arts) from Kenyatta University.

[Link to CV](#)