

DEPARTMENT OF METHODS AND MODELS
FOR ECONOMICS, TERRITORY AND FINANCE
MEMOTEF



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITY OF ROME

UNESCO Chair in Population,
Migrations and Development



unesco
Chair



Co-funded by
the European Union



I
U
A
V

MAPS

Migration and displacement Action Plan for sub-Saharan africa

We are pleased to announce the launch of MAPS – Migration Action Plan for Sub-Saharan Africa, a three-year initiative funded by the European Union through the EuropeAid programme.

MAPS aims to support local governments in Sub-Saharan Africa by producing high-quality, evidence-based research on the drivers of migration.

The project addresses the interrelated dynamics of demographic pressure, environmental degradation, economic disparities, and political instability, with the overarching aim of informing sustainable development strategies.

The MAPS consortium comprises a multidisciplinary network of European and African academic institutions, including Sapienza University and five other Italian universities hosting UNESCO Chairs (Udine, IUAV Venice, Brescia, Ferrara, and Reggio Calabria), alongside the University of Barcelona (Spain), the University of Dodoma (Tanzania), the University of Kabale (Uganda), and AMREF International University (Kenya). The initiative also benefits from the collaboration of strategic partners such as the IOM Regional Data Hub for West and Central Africa, the Catholic University of Rwanda, and the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa).

Research activities will focus on four thematic domains aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework: People (population trends and youth), Planet (environmental stressors and climate-induced migration), Prosperity (economic and social resilience), and Peace (human rights, conflict, and displacement). To facilitate the implementation of its objectives, MAPS has established three dedicated working groups on research coordination, stakeholder engagement and cultural dialogue, and knowledge dissemination.



MAPS Seminars – Summer 2025

Throughout June and July 2025, the MAPS project will host a series of academic seminars exploring critical dimensions of migration and displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa. The programme will open on 13 June with a session by Dr. Golaz (INED, France) on population growth and environmental stressors. On 20 June, scholars from Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire will discuss migration dynamics and forced displacement in West Africa.

On 11 July, Prof. Mariani will present on the economic interactions between refugees and host communities in Uganda. On 18 July, Prof. Petrovic e Prof. Petrillo will discuss the development of international and regional frameworks for migration and refugee protection, with a particular focus on Africa and Europe. Two additional sessions are scheduled for July (dates to be confirmed): one by Prof. Masera on the protection of fundamental rights of people on the move, and the other by Prof. Matteelli on the intersection of health and migration.



MAPS – Research Fellowships: Applications Under Review

By 10 June, over 350 early-career researchers from Sub-Saharan Africa applied for 40 fellowships offered through the MAPS project to support research on migration and forced displacement.

Applications are currently under evaluation. Fellowships will be awarded through Kabale University (Uganda), University of Dodoma (Tanzania), and AMREF International University (Kenya), covering candidates from ten African countries. Results will be announced in the coming weeks.

Upcoming MAPS Conference – Advancing Knowledge and Action on Migration and Displacement

On 28 July, in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), the project will host the first MAPS International Conference, titled “Bringing Scholars, Experts, and Decision-Makers Together: Innovative Pathways for Sustainable Migration and Displacement Action.”

The conference will serve as a dynamic platform for academic exchange and policy dialogue, bringing together leading researchers, policymakers, practitioners, civil society representatives, and institutional stakeholders from across Africa and Europe.

Stay Updated

Visit our [project page](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) for the latest MAPS news and activities.

