

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



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UNESCO Chair in Population,
Migrations and Development



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MAPS

Migration and Displacement Action Plan for Sub-Saharan Africa

On July 28, in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), the inaugural conference of the European MAPS project took place, under the title *"Migration and Displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa: Towards a Knowledge-Based Agenda"*, bringing together scholars, policymakers, practitioners, civil society, and international organizations to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to migration and displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa. The event was organized within the framework of the **MAPS Project – Migration and displacement Action Plan for sub-Saharan africa**, coordinated by the UNESCO Chair in Migration, Population, and Development at Sapienza University of Rome, and co-funded by the European Union.

The conference opened with institutional remarks from distinguished representatives, including Razack Bakari Lokina of the University of Dodoma, Giuseppe Coppola, Ambassador of Italy to Tanzania, Maurizio Busatti of the International Organization for Migration, Sobhi Tawil from UNESCO, Marc Stalmans of the European Union Delegation, and Anna Peter Makakala from the Tanzanian Ministry of Interior.



The central part of the day was structured around four MAPS pillars: **People, Planet, Peace, and Prosperity**, which explained migration and displacement as an interlinked process and calls for global responsibility.

By fostering academic and policy cooperation, the MAPS Conference 2025 concluded with a strong commitment to advance a knowledge-based agenda on migration and displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa, in order to ensure that policies are informed by evidence and that they protect the dignity and rights of the most vulnerable populations.

All participants were extremely engaged and the feedback received highlights a great level of commitment and interest of all stakeholders involved towards MAPS activities, which opens a path for a fruitful cooperation among all partners.

«Two communities that, sometimes in the past, were apart, coming together to grapple with the complexity, variety, wealth and richness of migration areas and issues globally. These two communities are, of course, academia and the operative side.»

Maurizio Busatti
(IOM Country Representative to Tanzania).



Cristina Giudici (Principal Investigator of the "MAPS" project) and **Giuseppe Sean Coppola** (Ambassador of Italy to Tanzania)



Anna Peter Makakala (Commissioner General of Immigration Ministry of Internal Affairs Tanzania)

MAPS Seminars – Summer 2025

On a monthly basis, the MAPS project has been hosting a series of academic seminars exploring critical dimensions of migration and displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Up to August 31st the following seminars have been held: *"Population growth and exposure to multiple environment burdens in Sub-saharan Africa"*, by Prof Ankit Sikarwar, Sciences Po, Paris and Prof Valerie Golaz, Institut National d'Etudes Demographiques, Paris (13th June); *"Dynamiques migratoires et déplacements forcés en Afrique de l'Ouest: enjeux et perspectives de recherche"*, by Prof Alain Tiga Ouedraogo, Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo Ougadougou, Bukina Faso, Prof Mamadou Dindé Diallo, Université Julius Nyerere de Kankan, Guinée, Prof Ramadan Diallo, Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique, Guinée, Prof Menan Kouamé, IPORA Inter disciplinary Policy-oriented Research on Africa, Côte d'Ivoire (20th June); *"Economic interaction between Refugees and Host in Uganda"*, by Prof Rama Dasi Mariani, Roma Tre University (11th July); *"Evolution of the international refugee protection system, from the first universal instruments to the African and European regional legislation on the matter"*, by Prof Nadan Petrovic, Sapienza University of Rome (18th July); *"External dimension of migration policy in Africa"*, by Prof Enza Roberta Petrillo, UNESCO Chair in Population, Migration and Development, Sapienza University of Rome (18 July).

These seminars have provided a multidisciplinary platform to deepen the understanding of migration and displacement dynamics in Sub-Saharan Africa, fostering knowledge exchange among scholars from different countries. Their added value lies in creating a scientific and policy-oriented dialogue that strengthens the comprehension of ongoing challenges and contributes to shaping more inclusive research agendas and policy responses.

MAPS – Research Fellowships: Selection of candidates

The evaluation process of over 350 candidates from Sub-Saharan Africa is completed. 40 promising young researchers have been awarded scholarships to support research on migration and forced displacement, through Kabale University (Uganda), University of Dodoma (Tanzania), and AMREF International University (Kenya), covering candidates from ten African countries.

The researchers will take part in a comprehensive capacity-building programme, including summer schools, webinars, and international conferences, combined with field research activities. They will be jointly mentored by European and African supervisors, ensuring continuous academic guidance and professional development throughout the fellowship.



Upcoming MAPS activities

In the coming weeks MAPS will launch the first two Summer Schools in Kenya and Tanzania, respectively taking place in mid-November and early 2026. Selected early-career researchers will get together with the objective to acquire common theoretical bases on migration and displacement and to develop the best methodology to start working on their research projects.

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