

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



SAPIENZA
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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

Forty outstanding early-career scholars from Sub-Saharan Africa have been selected to receive a 26-month research fellowship within the framework of the MAPS project. The fellowships were awarded following a highly selective process that drew more than 350 candidates, highlighting the strong engagement of emerging researchers across the region.

After a thorough assessment, 40 promising researchers were chosen for the academic quality of their research project proposals and their capacity to generate original knowledge on migration-related issues. The fellowships are hosted by Kabale University in Uganda, the University of Dodoma in Tanzania, and Amref International University in Kenya, involving candidates from ten different African countries.

Throughout the fellowship period, participants will benefit from a structured capacity-building programme combining fieldwork with advanced training opportunities. Activities include summer schools, thematic webinars, and participation in international conferences. Each fellow will be supported through a joint mentoring system involving African and European scholars, providing continuous academic support and fostering long-term professional development.



In Nairobi, the first MAPS Summer School

In November 10–16, the researchers gathered in Nairobi for the project's first summer school, held at Amref International University. Throughout the week, participants explored the themes related to the four pillars of Peace, People, Planet, and Prosperity, gaining new tools and perspectives to better understand and address migration and displacement dynamics in the region. The Summer School convened a diverse network of international scholars and practitioners from Europe and Africa, offering not only an academic learning setting but also a venue that encouraged multi-stakeholder dialogue.



Joachim Osur, Vice Chancellor of Amref International University (*pictured at the bottom left*), officially opened the international training, welcoming participants from 12 countries across Africa and Europe to this interactive learning experience. Rodgers Mutende, Assistant Director of Immigration Services at the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM), Directorate of Migration Services, Kenya (*pictured at the bottom right*), outlined the current migration landscape in Kenya, setting the tone for fruitful discussion and collaboration on MAPS future research.



Following an introduction to African migration patterns, pathways, and data by Christopher Zapp (IOM Kenya), Cecilia Fortunato (Sapienza University of Rome) presented an overview of theories, trends, and regional perspectives on migration and displacement.

Day 2 was dedicated to the implications of climate change on migration and global mobility. The discussions provided valuable insights into shared conceptual frameworks, the relationship between climate change and natural resources, and the growing trend of migration from rural to urban areas. Additionally, the session delved into predictive models designed to better understand and anticipate climate-driven movement.

Day 3 explored the ways in which migration intersects with economic and social well-being across Africa, highlighting the importance of building prosperity through inclusion, equitable access to services, and opportunities for all. The discussions focused on the economy, examining labour dynamics, migration decisions, and fiscal impacts; on welfare, with particular attention to equal access to services and the right to the city; and on housing and land, addressing issues of urban integration, affordability, and displacement.

Day 4 addressed how age, gender and health shape migratory trajectories, lived experiences, and access to rights and services. Through interdisciplinary perspectives, the course encouraged critical reflection on inequalities, wellbeing, and social justice in migration contexts.

Day 5 offered a critical space to reflect on the links between peacebuilding and migration dynamics. The programme addressed EU–Africa cooperation on migration and asylum policies alongside dialogue with local stakeholders, with contributions from associations such as Milango Housing, Habitat for Humanity, and UN Habitat.

The course closed with an interactive subgroup discussion and participant presentations, sharing reflections on migration dynamics in the 10 Maps Countries.



Sapienza University of Rome delegation visiting the Italian Embassy in Nairobi.

From left to right: Alessandro Feraldi, Cecilia Fortunato, Enza Roberta Petrillo, Giuliana Polo, Vincenzo del Monaco (Ambassador of Italy to Kenya and Seychelles), Cristina Giudici, Francesco Romani, Fabio Santoni (Scientific Attaché at the Embassy of Italy in Nairobi).



Seminars and webinars

On the occasion of the UNESCO - CNESA 2030 “Education for Sustainability Week” the Unesco Chair on Population, Migrations and Development organised a seminar on “Training and research for sustainable development: the MAPS project towards the goals of the 2030 Agenda” with the contributions of Roberta Petrillo, Giuliana Polo, Cecilia Fortunato, and Cristina Giudici.



On 12 December, from 11:00 to 12:00, Laura Colini and Gianfranco Pozzer from University Iuav of Venice held a seminar titled *Unsettled Grounds: Climate Risk, Migration, and the Quest for Secure Housing*. The seminar presented a research proposal on mapping housing conditions, climate vulnerability, and inclusion for migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ethiopia and Kenya.

Publications

Giudici C., Polo G., (2025), *Popolazione e migrazioni in Africa subsahariana*, in *Pace, Cultural Heritage, Economia dei Diritti umani*, ed. Nuova Cultura, pp. 129-138, isbn 9788833658667.

Upcoming MAPS activities

MAPS researchers and students from local institutions will attend the second MAPS summer school on data collection and analysis in the Dar es Salaam, February 2-6. The upcoming Summer School will provide a dedicated space to share and deepen knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods in the field of migration studies. Through lectures, workshops, and collaborative discussions, participants will explore key methodological approaches for analysing migration processes, data, and lived experiences. The School aims to foster methodological exchange and interdisciplinary dialogue among early-career and senior researchers.

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