



African Population and
Health Research Center



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Navigating the New Normal



Table of Contents

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR	4
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	6
INTRODUCTION	8
CHAPTER 1: IN IT TOGETHER.....	10
CHAPTER 2: COLLABORATION.....	12
CHAPTER 3: BUILDING RESILIENCE	14
CHAPTER 4: CELEBRATING THE WINS	16
FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS.....	18
FINANCIALS	20
FUNDERS.....	24
PARTNERS	25



Message from the Board Chair

Patricia Vaughan

What a year 2020 was! Rarely has there been a year filled with so much uncertainty and upheaval, from the most significant global health crisis in modern history to an economic crisis, to international movements of activism. As the whole world was struck by an unexpected and barely-understood disease, this uncertainty was compounded by scary and worst-case scenario projections about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the continent of Africa.

In 2020, APHRC researchers pivoted their efforts at a time when local expertise was invaluable in driving national responses, and Africans needed to make their voices heard in driving the narrative about the continent. Our teams are at the forefront of conducting research on multiple aspects of the pandemic, as well as its effects on longstanding population and public health issues likely to be exacerbated by the pandemic.

The Center will continue to play a central role in generating evidence, supporting decision-making, and building the capacity of Africans to take on research leadership roles; because, at a time like this, the Center's mission has never been more critical.



I would like to congratulate the APHRC team of staff and senior management who have shown remarkable resilience under extraordinary circumstances. Next, I wish to thank the Board members who have supported the Center throughout a difficult year with their guidance and advice.

Lastly, to all our partners, funders and supporters, I wish to express my gratitude for your unwavering support for the Center's vision and for that extra support you accorded us this year.

We look forward to a more certain future in 2021, a future where the lessons of 2020 will continue to shape our work and guide our mission as we strive to build back better.



Message from the Executive Director

Dr. Catherine Kyobutungi

2020 was an extraordinary year in many respects. It is the year that the whole world was struck by a deadly pandemic, the first of its kind in modern history. It was a year that we survived but also the year when we dug deep into personal reserves that we did not even know we had.

2020 exposed long-standing inequalities in global health, within and between countries. It exposed the divide between the haves and have-nots, who wore a mask, who could wash their hands with soap and water, who got tested, who had access to well-equipped hospitals and who could get a ventilator if they needed it. More significantly, the pandemic brought to the fore whose voices could be heard in the global discourse about the pandemic. African institutions and scientists found themselves in an unfamiliar situation of leading the response in their countries without international experts - and they rose to the occasion. The Center's experts have driven an unprecedented growth in media engagements and outreach, providing critical COVID-19 response advice to governments and other policy actors.

2020 was also the year when many African scientists claimed their voice, determined to shape the narrative about Africa. As an African research institution, APHRC found itself in a strong position to lend its voice to the ongoing discourse on racial justice and decolonizing global health, having long been a champion of equitable, mutually beneficial, global-north, global-south partnerships in research.



In the midst of all the uncertainty and anxiety, the Center started initiatives to provide data on COVID-19 in Africa and continued work in key areas of global health to highlight the impact of the pandemic on long-standing health and development issues. We also identified opportunities that will shape the way the Center works in future in a radically altered world.

By establishing online communications and collaboration platforms, we were able to work with more partners in the policy arena at the national and regional level, train many more beneficiaries in our short courses, adopt remote data collection approaches, streamline remote working arrangements and learn how to stay productive and connected with each other. Valuable lessons have been learned and shared and have left the Center better equipped to navigate a world that needs to pause and reflect on inefficient practices that are also harmful to the environment.

I am grateful to the APHRC family which pulled together and supported each other during a very difficult time; to the senior management teams that went an extra mile to design and implement strategies to keep everyone safe and maintain institutional health; to the Board that remained engaged and supportive at a time of great anxiety and uncertainty; and to our funders and partners for their patience, flexibility and understanding that helped us navigate the troubled waters of 2020.

Introduction

In preparing the 2020 annual report, we reflected on a year that was like no other. This report therefore highlights, not just the Center's achievements but our experience navigating troubled waters.

Despite the disruption faced globally as the world experienced one of the most significant pandemics in modern history, the Center emerged strong. Our story is like a puzzle with four interconnected pieces:

- **We are In It Together** - that was the realization we came to as members of the APHRC family, alongside our partners, funders, the communities we serve and indeed the whole of humanity
- **Collaboration** - is not only inevitable but is invaluable when you find yourselves in the same boat
- **Building Resilience** - the world has changed and we must change with it, if we are to build back better; so we built systems for the future
- **Celebrating our Wins** - there were wins; those bright spots in a difficult year; those achievements that kept us going; the results of the collective efforts of many and we celebrate them.

The year 2020 gave us the opportunity to demonstrate the power and potential of evidence as a driver of change.

Never has there been a more opportune time for the Center to establish the power and value of African experts leading conversations about change in Africa.

We hope you enjoy reading about our journey in 2020 and the four pieces of a puzzle woven together in the year of the pandemic



In It Together



Collaboration



Building Resilience



Celebrating the Wins



Chapter 1: In It Together

A global pandemic and working remotely precipitated feelings of anxiety and isolation from family members, friends and colleagues. In unfamiliar territory and faced with the realization that we are in this together, our spirit of togetherness shone through.

As the world grappled with the virus, collaboration both within and outside the Center became paramount. Our staff banded together to provide both mental and emotional support to each other; they ensured that COVID-19 mitigation measures were rapidly developed, deployed, and adhered to, all in an effort to safeguard one another. Our holistic approach to the wellbeing of our staff including mental, vocational, social and emotional health - led us to the second place position in the Global Center for Healthy Workplace Awards under the SME category.

Externally, we successfully worked with our partners to manage disruptions in their own institutions and ensured project delivery, while our funders extended a lot of grace and flexibility.



As the pandemic continued to evolve globally, Africa was left behind in the race to find the materials and resources needed to control the virus' spread within its borders. The pandemic has brought to the fore long-standing inequalities in access to critical tools for testing, treating and preventing diseases within and across countries.

The Center has been a loud voice for vaccine equity and equitable access for other COVID-19 prevention supplies and will continue to make the case for global, regional and national decisions that will ensure greater solidarity in tackling issues that affect the human race.



Chapter 2: Collaboration

Living through a very disruptive pandemic and realizing that we are in it together, requires unprecedented collaboration. The year 2020 also brought with it enormous opportunities.

The Center swiftly adapted to the new normal and pursued a mutual and impact focused outreach strategy with key policy actors. We deepened our policy focused partnerships and collaboration with regional bodies, civil society organizations and the media. We ramped up our collaborative efforts with the East African Community (EAC), the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) and the West African Health Organization (WAHO) on sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR). In addition, building on the success of previous engagements with the Government of Kenya, the Center was designated a research to policy partner for the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation.

In a landmark step to open gender data up to the world, the Center partnered with Global Health 50/50 and the International Center for Research on Women to launch the world's most comprehensive global public dashboard, under the Sex, Gender and COVID-19 Project. We are illustrating clearly how COVID-19 affects the health of men and women differently across the globe while dramatically increasing the number of countries monitored.



In 2020, we expanded our partnerships into all areas of our work. We started new partnerships with like minded policy research organizations, and started new initiatives in COVID-19 related research while keeping alive our research focus on matters that continue to be pertinent to the health and wellbeing of Africans.



Chapter 3: Building Resilience

2020 challenged us to re-examine our operational systems and their adaptability.

As we transitioned to working remotely, we expanded our online infrastructure, automated more administrative processes and banked on innovative approaches to keep most of our programmatic areas of work going.

Under the new normal, safety was paramount for our staff and in our operations. We established new guidelines for conducting research during the pandemic, adopted hybrid methods for data collection, reprogrammed some projects, and embraced the virtual space for training and stakeholder engagement. Our approach saw the Center break new ground in reaching wider audiences with evidence, tools, and resources. It also saw our work in policy engagement and training continue almost unabated.



As the year came to a close we were delighted to see systems developed in response to a crisis become more established, opening doors to limitless possibilities for communicating, public engagement and training in the new normal. A quick shift to virtual training platforms has led to the development of an APHRC Virtual Academy that will transform the way we offer training.



Chapter 4: Celebrating the Wins

In spite of disruptions, remote working and uncertainty, there were also many bright spots that the Center was able to celebrate.

At a critical moment in global health, APHRC was for the fifth year recognized among leading global think tanks in domestic health policy in the [2020 Global Go To Index Report](#).

The Center also emerged as one of the top 10 visionaries in the Rockefeller Food System Vision Prize in recognition of our bold idea to address food system challenges in Nairobi. Our winning team, consisting of members from the Maternal and Child Wellbeing Unit and Policy Engagement and Communications Division, was selected from a pool of more than 1,300 applicants from 119 countries.



Our policy engagement efforts with regional bodies resulted in advances in the policy debates around SRHR, and supported the development of the Kenya Sanitation Policy. Our civil society partners were at the forefront of advocacy for domestic financing for vaccination programs in Kenya, Ivory Coast and Ghana.

This year, the Center celebrated the tenth anniversary of its flagship doctoral training program: The Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA). We took the time to reflect on the findings from an evaluation exercise, aimed towards understanding what had been achieved since the program's inception. The evaluation showcased the CARTA program's achievements in building a critical mass of highly trained African scholars at PhD level, whilst also instilling a high-level commitment from partner universities through implementing innovations learnt through CARTA in their broader approaches to graduate education.

But let's take a look at the numbers;

- Seven out of eight partners have included components of the actual curriculum CARTA uses in their modules, into curricular for post-graduate training at their universities;
- Seven of the eight African partners that run PhD programmes have now institutionalized training of PhD supervisors;
- In 2020, we celebrated the award of 10 new doctoral degrees, bringing the number of CARTA graduates to 97

Here's a quick overview of some of our 2020 key highlights



57

new projects commenced across our programmatic areas of work during the 2020 reporting period

(This was an 84% increase from 2019)



118

APHRC-led Publications: 118 peer-reviewed journal articles, 13 policy briefs, 5 technical reports

(This was a 20% increase of from 2019)



25

Fellowships: 25 new doctoral fellowships awarded and 10 doctoral graduates under CARTA

(Since the CARTA program began, 97 fellows have completed their doctoral degrees)



215

Publications by Research Fellows: 215 peer-reviewed journal articles published by CARTA and ADDRf fellows

(193 peer-reviewed journal articles published by CARTA fellows, and 22 published by ADDRf fellows)



438

Registered 438 participants in our short course workshops under the Training Unit

(this is the highest number of trainees recorded in a year and an increase of 39% from 2019)

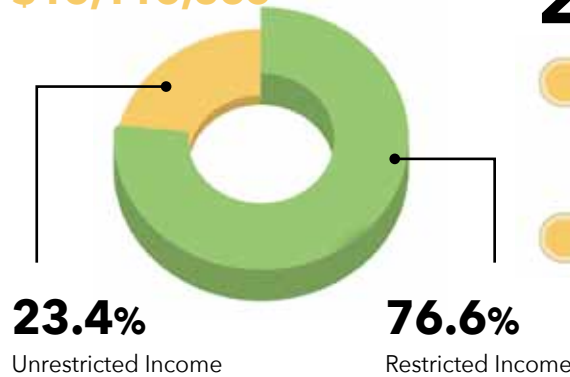
Financials

Our Center's commitment to transparency and accountability has led to consistent unqualified audits, even as we implement our largest-ever and most diverse portfolio of projects. Despite a challenging year that called for adjustments in operational budgets and constant evaluation of the Center's financial health in the pandemic, we pulled through safely, albeit with a discernible decline in income and expenditure compared to 2019.

Take a look!

\$16,116,865

2020 Income



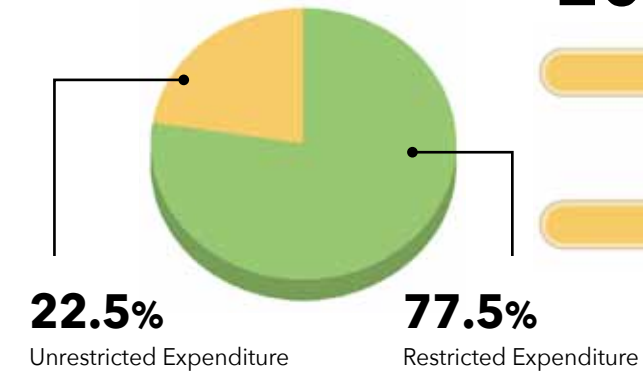
Sources of Income

Income Breakdown

Category	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total in 2019	Total in 2020
Grant income	\$12,218,904	\$2,936,739	\$17,371,679	\$15,155,643
Other income	–	\$800,929	\$1,012,067	\$800,929
Finance income	–	\$160,293	\$176,785	\$160,293
Total	\$12,218,904	\$3,897,961	\$18,560,531	\$16,116,865

\$15,773,886

2020 Expenditure



Sources of Expenditure

Expenditure Breakdown

Sources of expenditure	Restricted	Unrestricted	2019	2020
Direct programme expenses	\$2,218,904	\$795,282	\$15,272,474	\$13,014,186
Administration and support	0	\$2,759,700	\$3,149,305	\$2,759,700
Total expenditure	\$12,218,904	\$3,554,982	\$18,421,779	\$15,773,886

Surplus

Surplus	Restricted	Unrestricted	2019	2020
Net operating income	–	\$182,686	\$38,033	\$182,686
Finance income	–	\$160,293	\$176,785	\$160,293
Total surplus	–	\$342,979	\$138,752	\$342,979

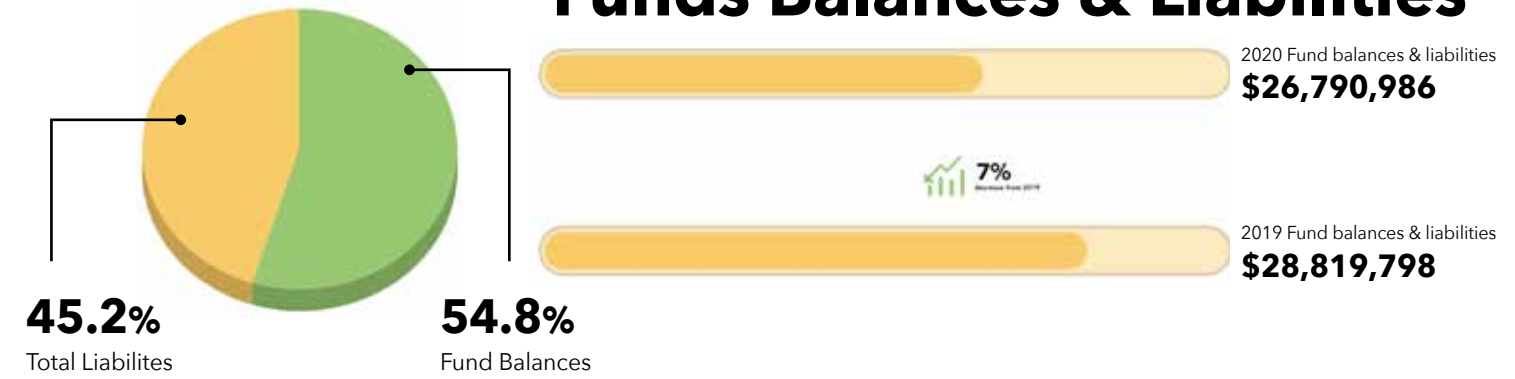
\$26,790,986

2020 Assets



\$26,790,986

Funds Balances & Liabilities



Total Assets



Assets

	2019	2020
Total assets	\$28,819,798	\$26,790,986

Non Current Assets

	2019	2020
Property and equipment	\$13,146,771	\$13,006,241
Intangible assets	\$147,955	\$91,542
Total non-current assets	\$13,294,726	\$13,097,783

Current Assets

	2019	2020
Cash and bank balances	\$13,030,647	\$11,432,868
Debtors and deposits	\$1,029,593	\$800,033
Grant receivable	\$1,464,832	\$1,460,302
Total current assets	\$15,525,072	\$13,693,203

Fund Balances

	2019	2020
Total fund balances	\$14,394,430	\$14,678,615

Liabilities

	2019	2020
Total liabilities	\$14,425,368	\$12,112,371

Total Fund Balances and Liabilities

	2019	2020
Total fund balances & liabilities	\$28,819,798	\$26,790,986



Funders

To our funders, we thank you for standing in solidarity with us and extending the financial flexibility needed to make necessary adjustments in our programmatic areas of work.

Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF)
 African Academy of Sciences (AAS)
 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
 British Academy
 Canadian International Development Agency- Canadian Network of Maternal and Child Health (CIDA-CanMNCH)
 Cardiff University
 Carnegie Corporation
 Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)
 Comic Relief
 DAAD: German Academic Exchange Service
 Danish International Development Agency
 Department for International Development (DFID)
 Echidna Giving
 Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
 ELMA Philanthropies
 Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
 Episcopal Relief Development (ERD)
 European Union/Commission (EU)
 Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)
 Hewlett Foundation
 Hivos
 International Development Research Center (IDRC)
 International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)
 Mastercard Foundation
 Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV)
 National Human Genome Research Institute -NIH
 National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)
 National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Network of African Science Academies (NASAC)
 Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
 Oxfam International
 Pharm Access
 Pivotal Ventures
 Sanofi Foundation
 SEO Amsterdam
 Stichting Foundation
 Swedish Research Council
 The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
 The Ford Foundation
 The Rockefeller Foundation
 The Royal Society
 The Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation
 The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)
 UK Medical Research Council (MRC)
 UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)
 UN Women
 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
 United Nations Office for Project Services
 United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
 Uppsala Monitoring Center (UMC)
 Wellcome Trust
 Wellspring Philanthropic Fund (WPF)
 William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
 World Health Organisation (WHO)

Partners

To our partners, your belief in the true spirit of collaboration transcended many obstacles. With your support, we explored new frontiers, and with a collective voice, we have worked towards what matters most for the African people.

3iE
 Academy for Health Development (AHEAD), Nigeria
 AfDB and 'AICS Thinking Partners' AFIDEP
 African School of Economics through Institute of Empirical Research in the Political Economy, Benin
 African Union Development Agency, South Africa
 Agency for Research and Development Initiative
 Ardhi University
 Busara Center for Behavioral Economics, Kenya
 Cardiff University
 Centre de Recherche en Santé de Nouna (CRSN)-Burkina Faso
 Coalition of NGOs in Health (GCNH)
 Columbia University
 Community Health Center Busabala
 Community Health Partners
 Drexel University
 Duke University
 East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community
 Ebony State University
 Economic Policy Research Centre
 Elimu Yetu Coalition
 ESE:O, Santiago, Chile
 Fawe Senegal
 FENOS-CI
 Guttmacher Institute
 HakiElimu
 Harvard University
 Health NGOs Network (HENNET)
 Hope for Future Generations (HFFG), Ghana
 HRP Alliance Research Grantees
 I-day Uganda
 Ifakara Health Institute
 Independent University, Bangladesh
 Institut Supérieur des Sciences de la

Population (ISSP)
 Institute for Public Finance Kenya
 International Center of Research on Women (ICRW)
 John Hopkins University
 Jimma University, Ethiopia
 Katiba Institute
 Kenya Paediatric Research Consortium
 Kidogo Innovations
 Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
 Lancaster University
 Langata Hospital
 Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
 London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
 Loughborough University
 Luke University
 Lund University
 LVCT Health
 Makerere University
 Malawi Polytechnic
 Marie Stopes Kenya
 Mazingira Institute
 MEIRU
 Melchizedek Hospital
 Miss Koch
 National Research Institute for Sustainable Development
 Newcastle University
 National Institute for Medical Research, Tanzania
 North-West University
 Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPD-ARO)
 Pharm Access
 Population Council
 Raising Voices Uganda
 Science Africa
 SENCE Ghana
 SIDAREC
 Slum TV

SLUMCHILD Foundation
 Southern Hemisphere
 St. John's Hospital Githurai
 Stellenbosch University
 TenMet
 The Aga Khan University
 The College of William and Mary
 The Ghana Health Service to Community Empowerment and Media Initiative (CEMI-K)
 Triggerise
 Uganda Society for Disabled Children
 United Nations University
 University College London
 University of Amsterdam
 University of Cape Town
 University of California, Berkeley
 University of Dodoma
 University of Ghana
 University of Health and Allied Sciences
 University of Ibadan
 University of Iowa
 University of Keele
 University of Kwazulu-Natal
 University of Manitoba
 University of Maryland
 University of Ouagadougou
 University of Oxford
 University of Queensland
 University of Rwanda
 University of South Carolina
 University of Swansea
 University of Twente
 University of the Witwatersrand
 University of Warwick
 University of Western Cape
 University of Zambia
 U-Tena Youth Organization
 Val Partners
 WaterAid, East Africa
 Well Made Strategy
 Well Told Story
 York University



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