



**African Population and  
Health Research Center**



# **APHRC Organization Profile**

# Who We Are

The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) is a premier research-to-policy institution, generating evidence, strengthening research and related capacity in the African Research and Development (R&D) ecosystem, and engaging policy to inform action on health and development.

APHRC is African-founded, African-led, and Africa-based, with its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya and a West Africa Regional Office (WARO), in Dakar, Senegal. APHRC seeks to drive change by developing strong African research leadership and promoting evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) across sub-Saharan Africa.

The Center's portfolio comprises over 200 projects in more than 35 countries, involving global, regional, and national stakeholders. APHRC engages with policymakers in the region to influence policy decisions and to tackle development challenges in the continent.



## History

APHRC started as a fellowship program and thereafter became autonomous in 2001 and was registered in the USA, and signed a Headquarters Agreement with the Government of Kenya as an African Regional Research Center. In the last two decades, the Center has grown, expanding its Africa-wide mandate and reaching partners globally.



Over  
**200**  
Projects



### Countries

African countries where over 200 APHRC projects activities are being implemented.



Our Vision

Transforming lives in Africa through research.



Our Mission

Generating evidence, strengthening research and related capacity in the African R&D ecosystem, and engaging policy to inform action on health and development.

## Our Values



### FAIRNESS

We are impartial, and committed to equity and inclusion



### INTEGRITY

We are open, authentic, transparent, and accountable



### RESPECT

We treat all people with courtesy, kindness and thoughtfulness



### EXCELLENCE

We pursue and deliver quality consistently, efficiently and effectively

## Our Approach

At APHRC, we utilize the evidence-informed decision-making approach in all our work to drive innovation and policy impact. We believe that Africa and African-generated evidence must be at the forefront of decisions supporting improved growth and development.

As a progressive global research Center invested in creating legacy impact, our work is organized in three integrated programmatic areas:

- Research
- Research and Related Capacity Strengthening (RRCS)
- Policy Engagement and Communications (PEC)

# Research

Our teams orient their research agendas to global and continental development priorities bringing independent evidence to the forefront of decisions supporting improved growth and development in the region. The Center's research priorities fall within four integrated work streams also referred to as themes. They are:

- Human Development
- Health and Wellbeing
- Population Dynamics and Urbanization
- Data Science Program

## Health and Wellbeing

The focus here is to generate evidence, build research and related capacity and influence policy and practice in health and wellbeing with a focus on nutrition and food systems; sexual, reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health; chronic diseases management; emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and health systems strengthening.

## Human Development

Focuses on generating evidence to promote stronger, more inclusive policies and practices for early childhood development, education and youth empowerment systems in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), in the context of growing inequalities, and emerging challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Population Dynamics and Urbanization

Focuses on generating evidence on migration and urbanization; urbanization and sustainability; water, sanitation and hygiene; ageing and development; determinants of high fertility in West Africa and urban health and demographic surveillance.

## Data Science Program

Focuses on maximizing the power of data for population and health research through the creation of platforms for Africa-led data sharing, data custody, and application of state-of-the-art big data analytics and artificial intelligence to foster advances in health and wellbeing in Africa. The work is undertaken in various units which are data platforms and systems, data governance, data harmonization and FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable), and data analytics and evaluation.

## Research and Related Capacity Strengthening

The Research and Related Capacity Strengthening program contributes to the realization of the Center's goals by developing capacities to strengthen the research ecosystem in Africa and contribute to the development and implementation of a blueprint for Africa's self-sufficiency in Research and development (R&D). The program works falls under three units:

- Individual Capacity Strengthening
- Capacity Strengthening for Institutions
- Research and Development Ecosystem Strengthening



### Individual Capacity Strengthening

The unit seeks to strengthen the technical, intrapersonal, and interpersonal aspects of an individual's capacity to undertake high-quality research or related functions that contribute to Africa's self-sufficiency in research and development.



## Capacity Strengthening for Institution

The unit works to strengthen institutional capacities to collaboratively develop/enhance systems, structures, and processes that promote research and development in Africa.



## Research and Development Ecosystem Strengthening

The unit aims to strengthen support structures, regulatory framework, and linkages for African research institutions and researchers to become critical voices and drivers of the development agenda in Africa.

# Policy Engagement and Communications

The Center builds relationships with local, national, regional, and global stakeholders to provide evidence to shape policies and influence decision-making that promotes sustainable development in Africa. Our work encompasses engagement with government and non-government entities, academic, advocacy, research institutions, civil society organizations, and communities to ensure contextual, relevant, and localized knowledge drives change. The policy engagement and communications work is structured in three units:

- Advocacy
- Synergy
- Visibility



## Advocacy

The unit promotes evidence-based decision-making, empowers key stakeholders within the African policy landscape, and forges partnerships with key players to drive policy action. Our mission is to inform and influence policy discussions and decision-making by identifying and nurturing champions within and outside government. Our ultimate goal is to stimulate greater interest in evidence-driven policies and programs.



## Synergy

The unit works to maximize APHRC's programmatic and policy impact. Functionally, the Synergy Unit promotes cross-cutting programming among specialized units and teams at the Center, facilitates sustained engagement with policy actors, and supports the strategic communication of research evidence to drive positive change on the continent.



## Visibility

The unit oversees institutional communications, ensuring optimum brand positioning and highlighting impact through policy engagement and communication activities. We aim for innovation and creativity in the communication products we disseminate. We support and elevate the efforts of all APHRC themes and programs through profiling their work for strengthened collaboration and strategic fundraising.

## International Programs

Our international programs, a new component of the Strategic Plan aims to ensure that our geographical expansion is strategic and more efficient. Through the program, we will strengthen our global networks of partners by formalizing relationships and streamlining our engagements in research and capacity-building for mutual benefit.

## Our Partnership Approach

AtAPHRC, partnerships are foundational to our mission and impact. We believe in fostering equal and equitable partnerships that emphasize co-creation and co-implementation within and outside Africa. Our approach to collaboration is rooted in mutual respect, shared goals, and the recognition that each partner brings unique strengths and perspectives to the table.

## What Sets Us Apart

- Leading African Institution in research and policy
- Focused on Impact
- Strong track record in research, research capacity strengthening, policy engagement and outreach
- Strong institutional systems and research culture
- Positioning as an African Research & Development ecosystem catalyst and enabler



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