

Counting on Each Other

Highlighting collaborations and contributions of young statisticians and demographers across different parts of Africa and beyond.



In this edition

01

YASA Francophone Activities

Building a stronger Francophone community of Young African Statisticians together.

03

YASA Nigeria Outreach Activities

A Nationwide Secondary School Sensitization Outreach by YAS in Nigeria

07

YASA South Africa Coordinator in Uganda

YAS moderated panel on evidence-based policies for peace and development

09

YASA & UNFPA ESARO Joint Webinar

The adolescent pregnancy burden across Africa and data driven initiatives to address it

14

Gender Course with YASA Arab Portfolio Lead

Equipping Young African Statisticians to design fairer gender policies and programs

15

YASA & YSS Connecting Young Statisticians

YASA and Royal Statistical Society's Young Statisticians Section collaboration

YASA Francophone in Action to Connect Knowledge & Opportunity

Building a stronger Francophone community of Young African Statisticians together.

Earlier in the year, the YASA EXCO, Francophone Portfolio Dr Justin Dansou had the pleasure of meeting Professor Romain Glele Kakai, Professor of Biometry and Forest Estimations and Head of the *Laboratoire de Biomathématiques et d'Estimations Forestières* at the University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin. The meeting focused on exploring potential partnerships and collaborative research opportunities to strengthen YASA's outreach and impact.

During the discussion, Professor Kakai shared valuable observations and recommendations to benefit YASA's Francophone portfolio. The conversation highlighted potential collaboration opportunities, particularly in training initiatives. Although Professor Kakai is currently managing a busy schedule, he expressed interest in working with YASA and intends to explore concrete collaboration options with his assistants. He also provided counsel on potential collaborators and fundes of YASA's projects.

In line with YASA Francophone's focus on capacity building, the association recently hosted an advanced virtual CSPro training in August 2025, building up on a session "*Introduction to CS Pro*" that was completed last year. Approximately 45 early-career and young statisticians from across

Africa participated, gaining skills in complex logic structures, managing multiple-choice questions, and integrating CSWeb for mobile data collection applications. As part of the ongoing digital skills initiative, a follow-up KoboToolbox training is planned for November 2025 to further strengthen participants' expertise in mobile survey deployment and data interoperability.



Dr Justin and Professor Kakai in Benin



Dr Justin and Professor Kakai at Prof 's office after a fruitful discussion

The meeting with Professor Kakai, alongside these targeted training initiatives, underscores YASA Francophone's unwavering commitment to enhancing visibility, fostering collaboration, and strengthening technical capacity among young statisticians across Africa. By combining strategic partnerships with practical training opportunities, the association continues to build a vibrant community of emerging professionals equipped to address the continent's data and research challenges. These efforts not only expand YASA's network but also create pathways for innovation, knowledge sharing, and professional growth within the Francophone region. Looking ahead, YASA Francophone remains dedicated to deepening partnerships, updating its digital presence, and also

providing high-impact learning experiences that empower young statisticians to lead with confidence and contribute meaningfully to Africa's development.

**REJOIGNEZ LE PLUS GRAND RÉSEAU DE JEUNES
STATISTICIENS ET DÉMOGRAPHES D'AFRIQUE**





Catching them Young: Inspiring the Next Generation of Statisticians in Nigeria

**A Nationwide Secondary School Sensitization Outreach by YASA Nigeria Chapter by
Ms Chidimma Ejiofor and Mr Chukwueloka Henry (YASA coordinators Nigeria)**

In a bold and visionary move to reshape the future of statistical education in Nigeria, the Young African Statisticians Association (YASA) Nigeria Chapter, launched a nationwide sensitization outreach across the country's major regions. The initiative was designed to ignite a passion for statistics among senior secondary school students, demystify the field, and inspire early interest in pursuing statistics as a course of study at the tertiary level. With a clear goal to "catch them young", YASA took the campaign to classrooms and assembly grounds, bringing real-life statisticians face-to-face with the students, sharing

sharing stories, demonstrating applications and highlighting the limitless opportunities that come with a background in statistics. The outreach kicked off in the Western Region, with the Lagos State chapter taking the lead. Spearheaded by Olofintuade Sylvester's dynamic team, the Lagos outreach saw visits to secondary schools where students engaged enthusiastically in conversations about data and decision-making.

Next, the initiative moved to the Eastern Region, where the Anambra State chapter, under the leadership of Ejiofor Chidimma carried the Interactive session with excellence alongside the vibrant statistician Nurudeen Rufai. Their outreach sessions were marked by interactive and inspiring talks that opened students' minds to the power of statistical thinking in today's world.

The journey continued to Zaria in the Northern Region where our passionate team led by Handan Timothy lit up the school with engaging sessions which sparked curiosity among students showcasing how statistics play a vital role from health and agriculture to technology and national development. Across the three regions, about 600 students were reached, each one a potential future statistician whose journey may have just been sparked by this outreach.



YAS Nurudeen Rufai giving some insights during the outreach



YAS Sylvester Olalekan Olofintuade with some students during the outreach in Lagos

As we look ahead, the Southern Region remains a priority for our next round of sensitization. Although the planned outreach in the region could not hold due to the unavailability of the designated team lead at the time, YASA is committed to ensuring that schools in the South are reached in our next phase.

The success of this nationwide sensitization is a testament to the vision, collaboration, and commitment of young statisticians across Nigeria.

The YASA Nigeria Chapter remains committed to fostering statistical literacy and building a robust pipeline of future professionals who will shape policy, drive innovation and influence positive change through data. Together, we are building a statistically literate Nigeria and Africa one student at a time.



Top: YAS Ejiofor Chidimma and YAS Nurudeen Rufai who coordinated in Anambra State. **Middle:** The School at Zaria coordinated by YAS Handan Timothy. **Bottom:** YAS Sylvester Olalekan Olofintuade who coordinated in Lagos State.



Top: Handan Timothy with the Principal of St Bartholomew's Anglican School. **Bottom:** YASA Nigeria Coordinators Henri and Ejiofor during the outreach exercise



Acknowledgements from the YASA Nigeria team:

This successful outreach would not have been possible without the generous and unwavering support of Chukwueloka Henry, a key leader of YASA Nigeria, who single-handedly sponsored the entire outreach. His belief in the vision and future of statistics in Nigeria is deeply appreciated. Special thanks go to Chukwunenye Victor, an industrious member whose efficient coordination of logistics and behind-the-scenes work made everything fall into place perfectly. We also extend heartfelt gratitude to the schools that opened their gates and gave us the platform to engage with their students. Your cooperation and hospitality were instrumental to the smooth execution of this initiative.

Evidence Based Discussions on Youth Demographics, Peace & Security in Uganda



A panel discussion to unpack African youth demographics; legislations towards developmental programmes; youth involvement in violence and extremism and the role of parliament in financing youth focused peace-building initiatives, and moderated by Dr Lutendo Malisha (YASA coordinator South Africa)



In June 2025, the African Parliamentary Index for Peace and Legislative Affairs (AFRIPAL) hosted a panel discussion on Youth Demographics, Peace, and Security in Kampala, Uganda. The session, brought together experts, policymakers, and youth advocates to reflect on Africa's growing youth population and its critical role in shaping the continent's peace and development agenda. The session was moderated by Dr. Lutendo Malisha, YASA Coordinator for South Africa.

Hon. Imanga Wamunyima Jr, a Zambian legislator and lawyer, opened the discussion by highlighting existing policies and programs in Zambia aimed at advancing youth development. He reflected on the progress made so far, lessons learned, and the need for continued commitment to ensure these initiatives truly meet the aspirations of young people.

From a regional perspective, Dr. Fredrik Mugisha, Sustainable Development Goal Integration Advisor at the UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa, provided insights into the demographic realities behind youth vulnerability to violent extremism. He discussed the key drivers pushing youth toward extremist groups and highlighted empowerment programs, such as those promoting education, employment, and civic engagement, that have shown measurable success in reducing vulnerability.

He emphasized the need for data-driven understanding of these dynamics, as well as intergenerational communication that allows youth and older leaders to share knowledge and co-create solutions.

Bringing in experiences from Uganda, Edna Kanyesigye, Programs Officer at Faraja Africa Foundation, shared insights from her extensive work in youth empowerment and advocacy. She underscored the importance of continuous monitoring and evaluation, supported by reliable statistics, to assess impact and guide future policy directions. She also provided recommendations to strengthen youth empowerment efforts across East Africa.

The discussion reaffirmed that Africa's youth are central to peace and development, and that reliable data and evidence-based policymaking are crucial for designing effective programs. Grounding decisions in demographic insights and measurable outcomes helps governments and partners better target resources, prevent violence, and create meaningful opportunities for young people. YASA's participation through Dr. Malisha highlights the association's commitment to promoting the use of statistics in policymaking, ensuring youth-focused interventions are informed by accurate data and responsive to real needs.

YASA and UNFPA ESARO Spotlight Data-Driven Solutions to Teenage Pregnancy

BY DR NAOMI SETSHEGETSO (YASA EXCO CAPACITY BUILDING)

Young statisticians, researchers, and policymakers gathered in a YASA–UNFPA ESARO webinar to explore the realities of teenage pregnancy across Africa, examining data trends, research gaps, and policy challenges, and identifying evidence-based strategies to reduce adolescent births and improve outcomes for girls and communities. Read more to discover the key insights, data highlights, and policy recommendations shaping Africa's response



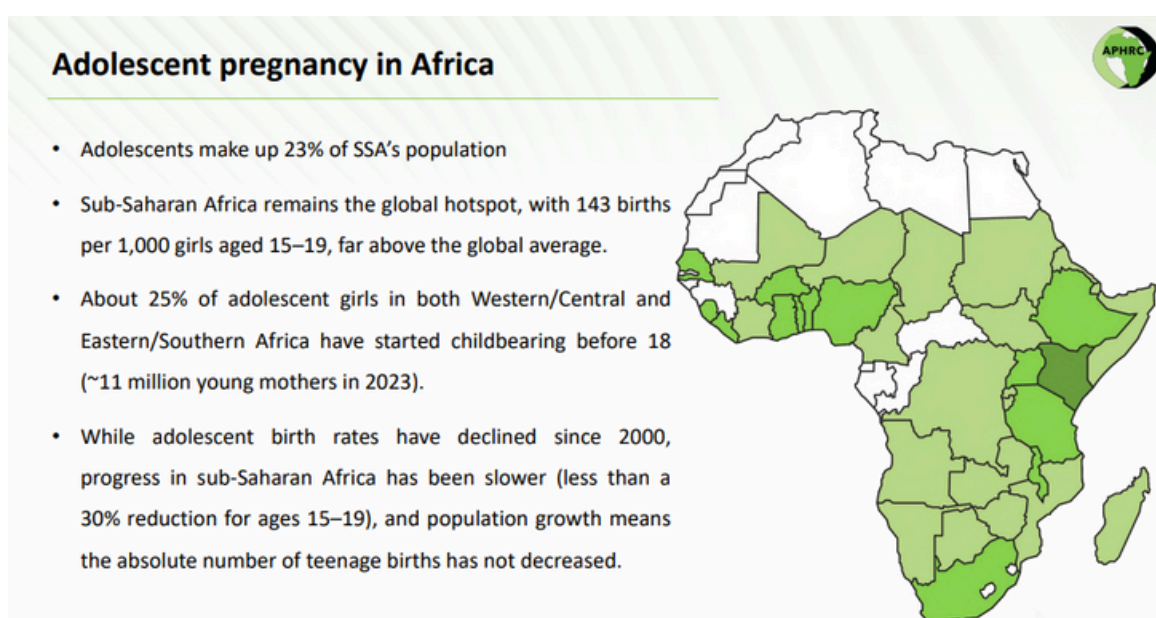
JOINT WEBINAR

From Numbers to Action: Understanding Teenage Pregnancy in Africa through Data, Research and Policy

A virtual webinar and discussion hosted by Young African Statisticians Association (YASA) in collaboration with UNFPA East and Southern Africa (ESARO)



The prevalence of teenage pregnancy in Africa is of public concern whereby, existing figures show that between 2006 and 2019 teenage pregnancy was estimated at 18.8% and of this, 19% occurred in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) with 21.5% adolescent pregnancy having occurred in East Africa followed by 20.4% in Southern Africa. YASA in collaboration with UNFPA ESARO hosted a webinar titled “From Numbers to Action: Understanding teenage pregnancy in Africa through Data, Research and Policy” in June 2025. The objective of the webinar was to deepen an understanding of young statisticians and researchers on teenage pregnancy in Africa focusing on current situation, data limitations and overall impact. The aim of the webinar was to also equip young and early career researchers with insights into relevant research themes that can contribute to better outcomes. Participants included about 100 students, young and emerging researchers, academic institutions, technical experts and policy makers from various institutions such as the UNFPA, Ministry of Health from different countries, UNESCO, National Statistics Offices, Senior Secondary Schools and regional young statisticians associations. The panellists included individuals from UNFPA ESARO, Ministry of Health, Department of Women, Youth & Persons with Disabilities and the African Population and Health Research Centre.



Part of Dr Ajayi's presentation highlighting the evidence that necessitated the webinar and discussion

In his opening remarks, Mr Frederick Okwayo, the regional technical advisor for population and policy at UNFPA ESARO, acknowledged all members present and YASA for championing knowledge sharing in Africa by bringing together young researchers to hear their voices on teenage pregnancy. Mr Okwayo highlighted that one challenge currently negatively affecting all countries in Africa is teenage pregnancy amongst others like poverty. The challenge of teenage pregnancy cuts across all countries regardless of development level (developed or developing countries). Teenage pregnancy is one of the indicators under health SDG goal 3 indicator 3.7.2, emphasizing the significance of teenage pregnancies to human capital development and to development of countries. Available evidence shows that teenage pregnancy has far reaching consequences for the health, education and socio-economic wellbeing of young girls, their children, families and communities that they live in. Mr Okwayo noted that while some progress has been made, the issue of teenage pregnancy persists due to a complex interaction of actors such as discriminatory social norms, poverty, lack of access to sexual reproductive health information &

services and inadequate policy formulation. Sub-Saharan African region has the highest regional adolescent birth rate which is estimated at 93 births per 1,000 adolescent girls. This is significantly higher than the global rate estimate of 41 births per 1,000 adolescent birth rate – meaning that within Africa, we are more than twice the rate global level of adolescent birth rate. Addressing adolescent pregnancy requires sustained commitment to comprehensive policies that protect girls' rights, promote inclusive education and expand access to sexual and reproductive health services and challenge harmful social norms. Effective policies need to be multi-sectoral, evidence-based and adequately resourced to create an environment where girls can realise their full potential.

SSA estimate
93 births per 1,000 adolescent girls

VS

Global estimate
41 births per 1,000 adolescent girls

Following the opening remarks, panellists highlighted the current situation of teenage pregnancy, policy challenges and how data analysis can be instrumental to show the gaps. From country data analysis that the panellists conducted, they also demonstrated how pathways from such analysis informs policy on the investments that can be made to improve teenage pregnancy for better outcomes. The webinar showcased a story of an African teenager who faced teenage pregnancy and had to endure the challenges of stigma, possibility of dropping out of school but overcame all these challenges due to the support she got from family.

Dr Anthony Ajayi from APHRC Kenya presented an overview of the current status and trends in adolescent pregnancy in Africa. His presentation provided country-specific highlights, underlying drivers, health and social consequences of adolescent pregnancy and key policies and strategies that are being implemented across Africa.

Top 10 countries with the Highest Adolescent Childbearing per WHO data

Rank	Country	Births per 1,00 girls aged 15-19
1	Niger	203
2	Mali	175
3	Angola	163
4	Chad	158
5	Mozambique	141
6	Guinea	134
7	Malawi	132
8	Madagascar	124
9	Liberia	123
10	Burkina Faso	119

Dr Ajayi's highlight of top 10 African countries with highest adolescent child bearing statistics

Dr Ajayi shed light on which policy actions are needed to be addressed in Africa to tackle adolescent pregnancy and highlighted the countries that have implemented these policies. These policy actions include the

- 1.Right to education** – where all girls who have given birth should be given the right to education,
- 2.Access to comprehensive SRH education** – a lot of adolescents are not aware of what to do,
- 3.Accessing SRH services**
- 4.Multi-sectoral approach** to addressing teenage pregnancy issue so that it involves the health sector, social welfare, education as well as justice sector.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- "Education and Awareness"**
Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE); Life skills training; Community engagement;
- "Access to Sexual & Reproductive Health Services"**
Contraceptives; Safe abortion services
- "Social and Economic Empowerment"**
Address poverty and inequality; Childcare support; Second-chance education;
- "Legal and Protective Measures"**
Enforce laws protecting children from sexual violence and exploitation; Parental involvement;

Ms Rudo Mhonde speaking about her experience and analysis she conducted using data from Eswatini and South Africa

From the research perspective, Rudo Mhonde made a presentation on leveraging routine and survey data from South Africa and Eswatini for adolescent pregnancy analysis using geospatial analysis and modelling for the period January 2020 to December 2023. In her methodology, she considered first ante-natal visits among adolescents aged 10 to 14 years, number of pregnancies terminated among teenagers aged 10 to 19 as well as district and provincial data to determine hotspots at district level. Their findings suggested shifting and persistent hotspots between 2020 and 2022 which among others pointed to some provinces having a surge in teenage pregnancies while other provinces recorded a decrease. The policy implications emanating from these research underscored the need to enhance comprehensive sexuality education, life skills training and community engagement

BANDEBEREHO & COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL EDUCATION

Initiatives currently used to engage young fathers (Rwanda), and students (Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, and South Africa) on SRH, gender equity and parenting

Mr Baleseng Mackenzie and Mr Sipho Mathoba, policymakers from the government of Botswana and South Africa respectively, were in agreement with policy implications highlighted by research and data panellists. They emphasised that the comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), it should not exclude boys when delivered to the girls and that it must be delivered in a school environment since this is where both boys and girls spend their time and are in a comfortable space around each other to learn individually and also assist explain to each other in cases where others have difficulty understanding concepts. Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, and South Africa are some of the countries that have implemented CSE and existing evidence shows that CSE delays sexual debut and increases contraceptive use. In terms of community engagement and gender-norm change, the panellists indicated that its goal is to shift harmful social norms around gender, sexuality and parenthood through usage of tools such as community dialogues, peer education and boys' engagement as well as fatherhood and masculinity programs. These community engagement tools are already applied in some countries such as Rwanda where 'Bandebereho' engages young fathers on gender equity and parenting.

01

Prioritize Evidence-Based Policymaking

Policymakers must leverage robust data and research to identify gaps, target high-prevalence areas, and design interventions that effectively reduce adolescent pregnancies.

02

Strengthen Comprehensive SHR Education

Governments should implement and scale up inclusive SHR education in schools, ensuring both girls and boys are equipped with accurate information and life skills to make informed decisions.

03

Invest in Youth Leadership and Participation

Engaging young researchers and statisticians in policy dialogues ensures that strategies are grounded in data, innovation, and the lived realities of African youth

04

Foster Multi-Sectoral Collaboration

Overcoming teenage pregnancy requires coordinated action across health, education, social protection, and justice sectors to address the root causes and barriers faced by adolescents.

05

Expand Access to Adolescent-Friendly Health Services

Health systems need to offer accessible, confidential, and youth-centered reproductive health services to empower adolescents and prevent unintended pregnancies.

Understanding Gender Through YASA's Free Online Courses with Dr. Alia Amer



Dr Alia A Amer, YASA EXCO Arab Portfolio

Equipping Young African Statisticians to design fairer gender policies and programs

The concept of gender has become a new trend in women's studies. Some see it as a substitute for previously existing concepts such as feminism or Womanize, which referred to the struggle of women to change unequal conditions between them and men.

Given the importance of this type of study, YASA offered a free online course in May 2025, presented by Dr. Alia Amer. "Deputy Secretary General, Arab portfolio delivered" a free course on Introduction to Gender Studies with the aim of developing gender awareness among stakeholders involved in development policy, planning, and implementation. to help policymakers, planners, and implementation stakeholders understand the differential impact of development interventions on men and women.

This course enhances the understanding of the distinct needs and preferences that men and women possess, and raise awareness among researchers and participants regarding gender issues when formulating policies, programs, and projects. The course was delivered virtually and was structured to provide theoretical foundations and practical applications of gender studies.

Dr. Alia guides participants through key concepts on the intersection of gender with social, economic and

cultural factors, and how these intersections influence policy outcomes. By linking academic perspectives with real-world case studies, the course helps participants move beyond abstract theory and apply gender-sensitive approaches to their professional contexts.

Running in its 2nd year, the course has now been conducted in English and Arabic, ensuring that a wider audience across the region could participate fully. Feedback from participants has been positive. Many praised the clarity of the sessions, the balance between theory and practice, and the opportunity to engage in dialogue about pressing gender issues. Such response highlight a growing demand for gender-focused training in the development sector. As awareness increases, so does the recognition that gender is not only a matter of equity but also of effectiveness — policies and programs that take gender into account are better positioned to succeed.

By offering this course free of charge, YASA reaffirms its commitment to equipping YAS. With Dr. Alia's leadership, the course has laid a foundation for deeper learning and future collaborations, ensuring YAS inform policymaking and practice in Africa and beyond.

Connecting Young Statisticians in Africa and in the UK

Royal Statistical Society's Young Statisticians Section (YSS) and YASA are working together to facilitate exchange of skills and opportunities, and facilitate networking of statisticians in Africa and in the United Kingdom.

In a world increasingly shaped by data, the field of statistics and data science offers dynamic and impactful career opportunities across academia, government, industry, international development, and more. Yet, early-career statisticians—especially in Africa or of African descent—often face limited access to mentorship and practical career guidance. As a section of the RSS, the Young Statisticians Section (YSS) recognises that many aspects of statistical work and professional development are shared across countries and regions, and that progress in statistical methods and theory is relevant to all.

While having the UK as its main focus, YSS was grateful to have this opportunity to collaborate with YASA and bring young statisticians worldwide together through the YSS <> YASA Joint Webinar. The collaboration consists of an online seminar series with two sessions: a session on soft skills career development (July 2025) and another session on skill-based training on data visualisation (upcoming, 28 October 2025). In the first session of the webinar programme, we had Dr Gbenga Kazeem and Mr Esau Atwongyeire sharing their career journeys and lessons they learned along the way.

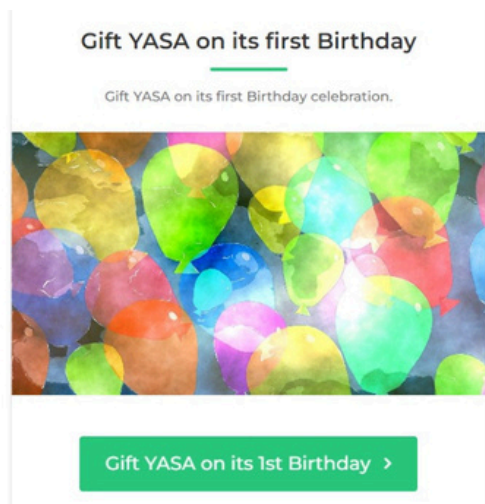
Dr. Kazeem, a statistician trained in Nigeria & the UK, has built a diverse career across academia, industry, consultancy, & training, contributing to drug discovery, statistical innovation and clinical

development, while promoting knowledge sharing within the scientific community. To young statisticians, he emphasised the importance of having a solid foundation in statistical methodologies, understanding of the applications of statistics, soft skills (including communication, networking and consultancy) and continuous professional development.

Mr. Atwongyeire has over a decade of experience in humanitarian and development contexts, focusing on action research, data governance, statistical literacy, and knowledge management; as a member of YASA, RSS International Development section and a research fellow at the Population and Social Development Institute, he works to advance data literacy across Africa. He emphasised the need for students and professionals to act on causes that are meaningful and substantial for all statisticians and data scientists, including developing strategies in promoting data communication and statistical literacy from a global perspective.

The next session of this collaboration will have emphasis on hands-on learning and skill development. In all sessions, representatives from YSS and YASA each chair and facilitate the session. This balance of perspectives allows us to learn from each other professionally and as organisations, and ensure that the content will be engaging, useful and inclusive for young statisticians in Africa or of African descent in the UK or worldwide.

WANT TO SUPPORT YASA ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION? HERE IS HOW YOU CAN DO IT



Give to support our activities
and country chapters



Partner with us for hands on training,
workshops and statistical literacy
programs

YASA MEMEBRSHIP CATEGORIES



Young African Statistician

Young statisticians of African Origin (residing in Africa or diaspora) under the age of 45

\$25



Student member

Students taking pure and/or applied statistics, and statistics related subjects within our scope in a tertiary association (valid for as long as enrolled)

\$15



International member

Young statisticians NOT of African Origin and NOT residing in Africa under the age of 45

\$25



Fellow member

Members who transfer from either Young African Statistician or International members

\$25



Institutional member

Recognized institutions of research, learning and advocacy in our focus areas or private sector institutions with an interest in the mission of the association

\$300



SCAN THE QR
CODE
OR VISIT

<https://youngstatisticians.org/membership-form/>

EVENTS **OCT-DEC**

COMING UP

WEBINARS/TRAININGS

28

OCT
12 PM
SAST

YASA & YSS JOINT WEBINAR

Beyond the Basics: Visualising Data for Young African Statisticians

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/YASAYSSVIZ>

03

NOV
4PM
SAST

YASA FRANCOPHONE WORKSHOP BY AXEL

KoboCollect Training Workshop by Axel Keza (Burundi)

Registration link TBC on our platforms

18

NOV
TIME
TBC

YASA, UNFPA ESARO & UN WOMEN JOINT WEBINAR

Webinar on Gender Based Violence in Africa

Registration link TBC on our platforms

02

DEC
TIME
TBC

YASA AGM & ELECTIONS

2026-2028 EXCO elections. Ensure your membership is up to date to be eligible. Joining link TBC to members

Renew your membership at: [Membership Renewal Link](#)

THIS EDITION'S EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Editor in chief: Dorcas Kareithi (Kenya)

Other editorial team members: Chidimma Ejiofor (Nigeria - Articles), Naomi Setshegetso (Botswana - Articles & Review), Alia Amer (Egypt - Article & Review) Justin Dansou (Benin - Articles & Review), Dr Lutendo Malisha (South Africa - Articles), Ms Teresa Lee (United Kingdom - Articles)

SEND US YOUR ARTICLES & NEWS

YASA members and partners with articles, pictures, news, events or publications should send their contribution to info@youngstatisticians.org for inclusion in the next newsletter edition

Reach out and interact with us

Y  S A

YOUNG AFRICAN STATISTICIANS ASSOCIATION



Website: www.youngstatisticians.org



Email: info@youngstatisticians.org



LinkedIn: [Young African Statisticians Association](#)



Facebook: [Young African Statisticians Association](#)



Twitter/X: [@AfricanYas](#)

© YASA 2025