



New Leaders. New Voices. New Chapters.





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Introducing YASA's New (2026/2028) Executive Committee

The Young African Statisticians Association (YASA) is pleased to announce the new Executive Committee (EXCO) following the successful conclusion of the recent elections. The incoming leadership team will guide the association in advancing its mission of promoting statistical development across Africa.

The new EXCO 2026-2028 begins its term in April 2026, through to March 2029, in accordance with YASA's constitutional requirements. The new EXCO reflects notable diversity, comprising **six female and five male members drawn from nine different African countries**. This composition highlights YASA's commitment to gender inclusion, balanced representation, and regional diversity. Such a leadership structure is expected to enhance the association's responsiveness to the varied needs of its members and strengthen collaboration across different parts of the continent. It also reinforces the importance of inclusive governance in shaping policies and programmes that are representative and impactful.

According to the Chair of the Electoral Committee, Mr Andrew Tshililo, the election process was conducted in full compliance with YASA's electoral guidelines, ensuring transparency, fairness, and democratic participation. The Committee noted with appreciation the willingness of members to serve the association. In a message to newly elected EXCO, the electoral committee chairperson, extended his congratulations to the newly elected leadership and expressed confidence in their ability to strengthen the association and contribute meaningfully to statistical development across the continent. He further acknowledged the contributions of all members who participated in the election process, as well as the outgoing leadership for their dedication and service to YASA.

As the new EXCO assumes office, it is expected to build on existing achievements while introducing new initiatives that support professional development, research, and engagement within the statistical community. We encourage members to continue supporting the association's activities and to actively engage with the new leadership.

In the next few pages, meet the new members of 2026-2028 YASA EXCO, what they do, and what drives them:

Building Stronger Statistical

Communities Across Africa

By Axel Keza

My name is Axel Keza, a Burundian statistician and public health researcher with a passion for using data to drive positive change in society. I am honored to serve as the Deputy Secretary General for the Francophone Portfolio of the Young African Statisticians Association (YASA), where I contribute to strengthening engagement among young statisticians across French-speaking Africa.

My academic journey reflects my commitment to advancing statistical science and its application to development challenges. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Statistics from Lake Tanganyika University (Burundi), a Postgraduate Diploma in Monitoring and

Evaluation from Uganda Technology and Management University, and a Master's Degree in Biostatistics from the University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin). My research interests focus on infectious disease epidemiology, public health research, and monitoring and evaluation systems, with particular attention to improving evidence-based decision-making in low-resource settings.

Throughout my career, I have combined technical expertise with leadership and community engagement. During my university years, I served as both General Secretary and later President of the Statistics Club at Lake Tanganyika University. Today, I serve on the Executive Committee of the Association of Professional Statisticians of Burundi (APROSTAB), where I coordinate communications and stakeholder engagement initiatives. I also serve as the National Coordinator of YASA Burundi, leading efforts to establish and strengthen the YASA chapter within APROSTAB as a host organization.

One of the highlights of my involvement with YASA has been contributing to the research project, "**Making Data Comprehensible - Phase 1: Mapping Young African Statisticians in**



Mr Axel Keza
(Burundi)

Africa and Their Role.” I had the privilege of participating in the project’s design and co-leading its invited paper session at the 65th World Statistics Congress. In addition, I have supported capacity-building initiatives, including delivering a two-day training workshop on KoboToolbox for data collection in November 2025, helping strengthen data management skills among young professionals.

Beyond YASA, I actively engage with the global statistical community through membership in organizations such as the American Statistical Association, , Statistics Without Borders, and the Royal Statistical Society. These networks provide valuable opportunities to collaborate, learn, and contri-

-bute to advancing the role of statistics in addressing global challenges.

As YASA continues to grow, I would like to encourage all members to remain actively engaged in the association’s activities. The strength of YASA lies in the collective talents, expertise, and commitment of its members. Whether through research, mentorship, training, leadership, or advocacy, every contribution helps build a stronger and more impactful community of young African statisticians.

I would also like to extend an invitation to young statisticians across Africa and in the diaspora who have not yet joined YASA. The association provides a unique platform to connect, learn, collaborate, and develop professionally while contributing to the advancement of statistics on the continent.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to YASA’s partners and supporters. Your technical and financial contributions have enabled the association to implement meaningful initiatives that empower young statisticians and promote data-driven development. While much has already been achieved, there is still tremendous potential for greater impact. We look forward to strengthening existing partnerships and welcoming new collaborators who share our vision of building a vibrant and influential statistical community across Africa.

Together, we can empower the next generation of African statisticians and ensure that data remains a powerful tool for sustainable development and informed decision-making.



Axel at STATCOM 2024

A Journey Through Statistics, Teaching, & Community by Dr Edmond Sanou



Dr. Edmond Sanou
(Burkina Faso)

I am Edmond Sanou, a statistician and applied mathematician from Burkina Faso. I hold a PhD in Applied Mathematics from Université Paris-Saclay and an MSc in Biostatistics from ENSAI. My work spans statistical methodology, biostatistics, education, and community building.

My Research: Making sense of high-dimensional biological and health data: My doctoral research, carried out within the Statistics and Genome group at the Évy Mathematics and Modeling Lab, focused on graphical models for high-dimensional data. I

developed the MGLASSO, or Multiscale Gaussian Graphical LASSO, a method that simultaneously infers networks of interacting variables and the clustering structure among them. This is particularly useful in settings where the number of variables far exceeds the number of observations. The method has been applied to problems ranging from microbial associations in gut microbiome data to methylation and gene expression in poplar trees, contributing to questions related to how forest trees adapt to their local environments in the context of climate change.

Following my PhD, I joined the Autorité de Sûreté Nucléaire et de Radioprotection (ASNR, formerly IRSN) as a Postdoctoral Researcher in Biostatistics. There, I worked within the INCREASED project on the statistical validation of deep learning methods for detecting chromosomal aberrations in metaphase images. This work addressed a key challenge in biological dosimetry: estimating the dose of ionizing radiation received by an individual from cellular damage observed in two-dimensional images. By combining statistical modeling, computer vision, and uncertainty quantification, the project aimed to make dose estimation faster, more reliable, and more reproducible for radiation-protection and biomedical decision-making.

Across these projects, my broader research interests have taken shape at the intersection of high-dimensional statistics, graphical models, convex optimization, clustering, multi-omics integration, statistical learning, deep learning validation, ensemble methods, and uncertainty quantification.

Tutoring at AIMS Cameroon: At the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) in Cameroon, I serve as a Teaching Assistant for the Master's programme. This has meant supporting a wide range of courses, from Introduction to Probability and Statistics, Bayesian Statistics, and Statistical Inference with Application to Health, to Supervised Machine Learning and Statistical Methods for Climate Science. Beyond the classroom, I have had the opportunity to accompany students through their research essays as a monitoring tutor, guiding them methodologically, reviewing their analyses and code, and helping them structure their work into something they can be proud of. The topics have been remarkably diverse: financial network estimation, clustering for omics data, malaria risk prediction, functional data analysis, and pathway analysis for cancer proteomics, among others. Watching students grow into confident, independent researchers has been one of the most rewarding parts of my work at AIMS

Building communities around statistics: Alongside research and teaching, I have long been drawn to community building. In 2017, together with fellow alumni, I helped start Stat-Inf, an informal francophone community of statisticians and computer scientists built around a simple idea: by sharing what we know, we enrich others and ourselves. It continues today through tutorials, thematic debates, and a YouTube channel. I have also been active in the wider statistical community, co-organising seminars in statistics and probability with the French young statisticians' network, serving on the Editorial Board of Young Statisticians Europe, and writing for MathStatBites, a blog hosted by the Institute for Mathematical and Statistical Innovation (IMSI).

A message to YASA members and partners: To fellow YASA members: your membership is more than an annual fee, it is a statement of belonging to a continental community that is still being built. Every renewal, every contribution, and every connection you make adds earth to the termite mound. As Titinga Frédéric Pacéré, the Burkinabé poet, writer, lawyer and cultural figure wrote: "*Si la termitière vit, qu'elle ajoute de la terre à la terre.*"

To our partners: YASA aspires to become the reference professional community for young African statisticians. With your support, and through the partnerships we are building across universities, institutions, and the private sector, that ambition is within reach.

I look forward to contributing to this journey and to meeting more of you along the way.

*Si la
termitière vit,
qu'elle ajoute
de la terre à
la terre.*

Dr Edmond Sanou holds a PhD in Applied Mathematics and is currently a tutor at AIMS Cameroon. He is the Membership and Stakeholder Management EXCO.

Harnessing Data in Building Africa's future: My Journey As A Statistician & A Message to the Next Generation.

By Lyne Nziza



Ms Lyne Nziza (Burundi)



Lyne at ISI WSC 2025 with other YAS

In an era where data increasingly shapes decisions, policies and innovation, I have to come to realize that progress begins with understanding reality. Behind every scientific discovery, development programme lies one invisible and powerful force: data. And behind the data stand statisticians whose contribution shape the future of nations.

As I reflect on my professional journey over the past twelve years, I realize that statistics have never been simply a profession for me. It has been a tool for understanding complexity, generating evidence, and contributing in meaningful ways to the sustainable development of our continent.

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Applied Statistics and have built my career at the intersection of quantitative analysis, research, database management, and international development. Throughout my professional experience, I have had the opportunity to work with organizations

such as the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), where I contributed to specialized scientific research projects focused on mineral traceability systems across countries including Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Tanzania.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my work has been managing complex research datasets involving thousands of mineral samples and building secure database systems capable of supporting scientific verification processes and cross-border collaboration.

My professional interests continue to evolve around applied statistics, data science, database systems management, evidence-based policy research, and strengthening African statistical systems mainly educational systems that produce statisticians that fulfill the needs present on the market.

As Africa navigates increasingly complex challenges, from natural resource governance and technological transformation to public health, climate change and economic integration, the role of statisticians has never been more important

It is precisely for this reason that I consider my involvement with the Young African Statisticians Association (YASA) both a privilege and a responsibility. YASA represents something far greater than a professional network. It represents a collective ambition: building a generation of African Statisticians capable of leading Africa's transformation through knowledge, innovation and collaboration.



Lyne presenting at the WSC

To all young African statisticians, I would like to share this message :

Never underestimate the value of your profession. Statistics is not just about numbers, formulas, or software. It is about understanding reality, revealing patterns that others may not immediately see, and producing knowledge that can transform communities and institutions.

Continue learning beyond the classroom. Master new technologies. Develop and strengthen programming and analytical skills. Remain curious about emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data systems, and data governance. But most importantly, remember that technical competence alone is not enough, integrity, collaboration, and a commitment to solving real societal problems are what will define your long-term impact.

Africa needs statisticians who are not only technically skilled, but also visionary, ethical, and deeply committed to using data as a force for sustainable development

The future of Africa will be data driven. Let us ensure that Africans are the ones leading that transformation.



Sarah doing what she loves most in her free time

Following the data: How curiosity led me to an unexpected corner of statistics

By Mutheu Sarah

When most people think about statistics, they often picture rows of numbers, complex formulas, software packages and endless spreadsheets. I understand why. For a long time, I thought the same. What I did not realize back then was that statistics would eventually introduce me to entirely new ways of seeing the world.

My professional journey has taken me through research, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), learning and evidence generation. Along the way, I found myself becoming increasingly interested in the stories behind the data. Not just what the numbers tell us, but why they matter and whose lived experiences they represent.

Challenging assumptions: One of the things I enjoy most about working with data is that it constantly challenges our assumptions. Sometimes the evidence confirms what we expect. Other times, it forces us to completely rethink what we thought we knew. That process of discovery is exactly what keeps research exciting for me.

Like many professionals working in statistics related fields today, my path has not followed a straight line. The more I learned, the more I realized that statistics is not confined to traditional corporate sectors or standard job titles. It has applications in places many people never imagine.

That realization eventually led me into an area that is still relatively unfamiliar to many mainstream statisticians and researchers: displacement statistics.



*The best thing
about being a
statistician is
that you get to
play in
everyone's
backyard –
John Tukey*



The intersection of numbers and human realities: At first glance, displacement statistics may seem like a highly niche area. Yet, it sits directly at the intersection of many disciplines that statisticians already engage with every day; demography & population studies, survey methodology, M&E, geographic & spatial analysis and policy research.

A growing frontier for Young African Statisticians: Over the years, I have noticed that while many statisticians are aware of general migration and population trends, there are very few formal opportunities to learn about displacement statistics as a specialization. Yet, on our continent and globally, it is an area of growing relevance with significant opportunities for researchers, data analysts, demographers and M&E professionals.

This is why I am incredibly passionate about creating conversations around this topic. Not because it should replace traditional areas of statistical practice, but because it demonstrates just how versatile our profession can be.

Statistics has always evolved alongside society's most pressing challenges. As new global realities emerge, so do new opportunities for statisticians to contribute their expertise in deeply meaningful ways.

Let curiosity be your compass: What excites me most is the possibility that there are young statisticians and researchers, right here in the YASA network, who may never have considered fields like displacement statistics simply because they haven't been exposed to them yet. Sometimes, all it takes is hearing someone else's journey to realize that an entirely new path exists for you.

If there is one lesson my journey has taught me, it is that curiosity can take you much further than you initially expect. Some of the most rewarding professional experiences emerge from questions we never planned to ask and fields we never planned to explore.

That is perhaps the greatest strength of statistics itself, it allows us to remain endlessly curious about the world, to investigate complex problems, and to uncover insights that might otherwise remain hidden.

Looking ahead, I hope to continue learning, asking tough questions and contributing to conversations that expand how we think about statistics and its role in society. Because at the end of the day, behind every dataset is a human story, and behind every statistic is an opportunity to learn something meaningful about our wo



"The most interesting opportunities in statistics are often found at the boundaries between disciplines."

Ms Sarah Mutheu
(Kenya)



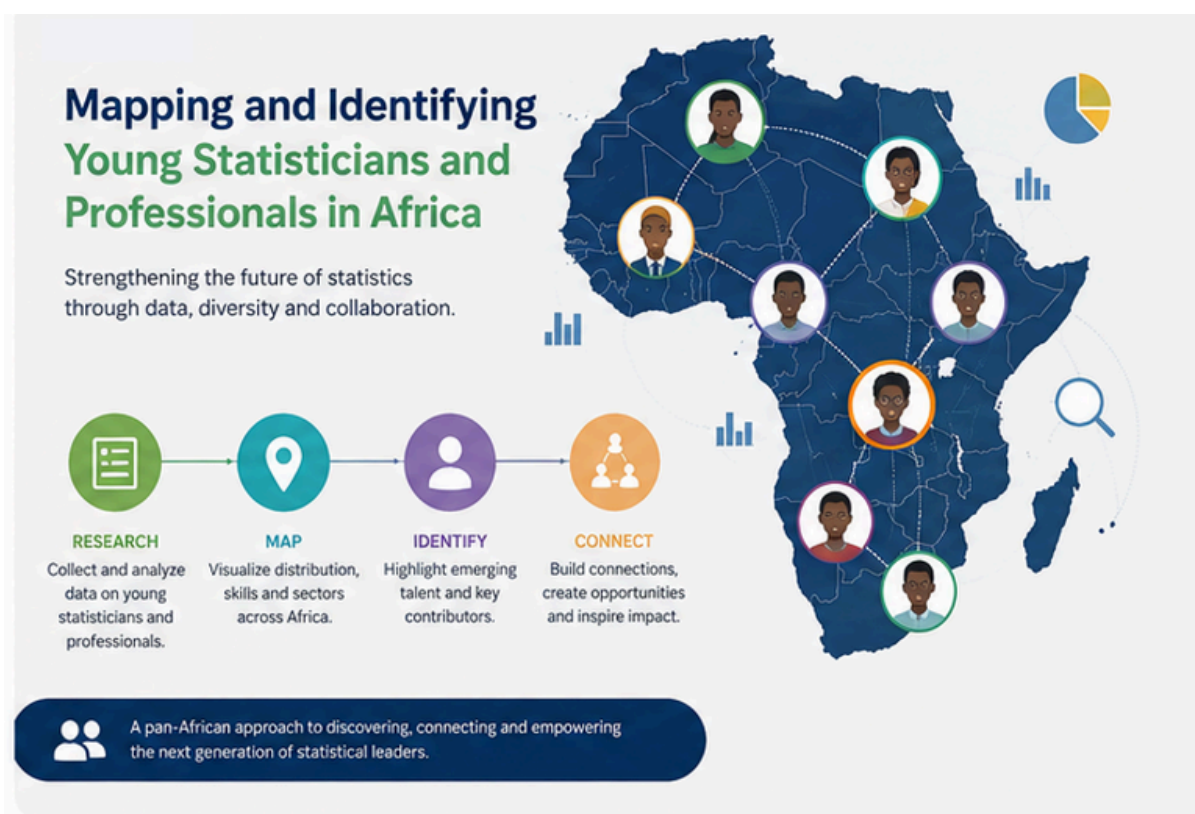
Making Data Comprehensible: Mapping Young African Statisticians and Data Scientists

A YASA research initiative and study, launched in May 2026 that is building an evidence base on where young statisticians are, what they do, and how Africa can better use their skills to turn data into action.

Across Africa, the demand for timely, reliable data has never been higher—from tracking progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to delivering on Africa’s Agenda 2063. Yet, traditional data systems can be slow and costly, while rapid advances in technology are creating new opportunities to generate insights faster and at scale. Young people with skills in statistics and data science are well placed to help close this gap—if their expertise can be identified, supported, and meaningfully engaged.

However, the pipeline remains limited. With tertiary enrolment in Sub-Saharan Africa still low, the continent has a relatively small pool of graduates trained in statistics and data science. At the same time, there is no comprehensive picture of where young African statisticians are located, the institutions and sectors they work in, or the roles they play in generating and translating data for decision-making. This makes it harder for governments, National Statistics Offices, universities, and partners to design initiatives that connect data needs with available talent

Making Data Comprehensible – Phase 1: Mapping YAS in Africa and Their Role is a new research project led by the Young African Statisticians Association (YASA). The study will virtually map and estimate the population of Young African Statisticians (YAS) and data scientists (aged 18–35), including those living and working on the continent and in the diaspora. It is part of a broader YASA initiative to strengthen data comprehension by promoting quality skills and modern techniques—including artificial intelligence and machine learning—among young statisticians.



What the study will do

- Map and estimate the geographic, demographic, and professional distribution of Young African Statisticians in Africa and the diaspora.
- Assess how YAS are contributing to statistical and data science initiatives linked to Africa's development goals.
- Synthesize the potential of YAS as key drivers of Africa's statistical development.
- Inform strategies and programs that strengthen the role of YAS in Africa's digital and development agenda.

The research will use a cross-sectional, online mixed-methods survey—combining structured questions with open-ended responses to capture both measurable trends and lived experiences. YASA will reach participants through professional networks, universities, National Statistics Offices, online platforms, and diaspora communities, with snowball sharing encouraged to broaden reach. The study is designed to achieve wide regional representation, with an overall target sample of approximately 480 respondents.

Why this matters The findings will help decision-makers understand the “missing link” between available young statistical talent and the growing demand for data expertise. Governments and partners can use the results to plan investments in tertiary training, statistical literacy, and youth employment pathways. Universities and training institutions can strengthen or tailor programs in statistics, data science, and related fields. For YASA, the evidence will support advocacy, targeted capacity-building, and stronger platforms for young statisticians to contribute to evidence-based policy and development.

As an online multi-country study, ethical review was obtained through a recognized Institutional Review Board (IRB). Participation is voluntary, with informed consent and clear safeguards for confidentiality and data security.

Get involved If you are a young African statistician or data scientist—or you work with communities of young data professionals—YASA welcomes your support in sharing this initiative and helping the study reach diverse respondents across Africa and the diaspora. Follow YASA channels for updates on the study launch, data collection, and key findings from Phase 1 of Making Data Comprehensible.

CALL FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS ~ YASA MAKING DATA COMPREHENSIBLE RESEARCH STUDY

Are you a *young African* statistician (YAS)?

We are mapping the population of young statisticians shaping Africa's data future. Your 10-minute response makes you part of the evidence.

You can participate in this study if you are...

Aged 18–35 years old

African national or of African descent

Studying or working in statistics, demography, mathematics or data science

Based in Africa or the diaspora

Why your participation matters: Africa's Agenda 2063 warns that without timely data, SDG progress cannot be measured. This study helps governments find and invest in young statisticians like you. Read more about the first Phase of YASA study “Making Data Comprehensible” on your website: www.youngstatisticians.org/what-we-do/

YASA

YOUNG AFRICAN STATISTICIANS ASSOCIATION

Scan the code below to participate



or type the URL below on your browser

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/MAPPINGYASRESEARCH2](https://bit.ly/mappingyasresearch2)

#YASAresearch #DataForAfrica
#YoungAfricanStatisticians #YASAssociation

 info@yasastatisticians.org

 Young African Statisticians Association

 Young African Statisticians Association

 @AfricanYas

دعوة للمشاركة في البحث - دراسة بحثية بعنوان "جعل البيانات مفهومة" من قبل جمعية ياسا

هل أنت شاب أفريقي إحصائي (YAS)?

نحن بصدد رسم خريطة لفئة الإحصائيين الشباب الذين يشكلون مستقبل البيانات في أفريقيا. إجاباتك التي تستغرق 10 دقائق تجعل جزءًا من هذه الأدلة.

...يمكنك المشاركة في هذه الدراسة إذا كنت

- مواطن أفريقي أو من أصل أفريقي
- تتراوح أعمارهم بين 18 و 35 عامًا
- مقيم في أفريقيا أو الشتات
- دراسة أو العمل في مجالات الإحصاء، أو علم السكان، أو الرياضيات، أو علم البيانات

أهمية مشاركتكم: يحذر برنامج أفريقيا 2063 من أنه بدون بيانات دقيقة وفي الوقت المناسب، لا يمكن قياس التقدم المحرز في أهداف التنمية المستدامة. تساعد هذه الدراسة الحكومات على إيجاد واستثمار موارد بشرية في مجال الإحصاء لدى الشباب أمثلكم. اقرأوا المزيد عن المرحلة بعنوان "جعل البيانات مفهومة" على موقعنا الإلكتروني YASA الأولى من دراسة: www.youngstatisticians.org/what-we-do/

أدناه في متصفحتك أو URL أو اكتب عنوان [HTTPS://BIT.LY/MAPPINGYASRESEARCH2](https://bit.ly/mappingyasresearch2)

#YASResearch #DataForAfrica #YoungAfricanStatisticians #YASAssociation

info@yasastatisticians.org Young African Statisticians Association @AfricanYas

CHAMADA PARA PARTICIPANTES DE PESQUISA - ESTUDO DE PESQUISA DA YASA TORNANDO OS DADOS COMPREENSÍVEIS

Você é um(a) jovem africano estatístico (YAS)?

Estamos mapeando a população de jovens estatísticos que estão moldando o futuro dos dados na África. Sua resposta de 10 minutos te torna parte dessa evidência.

Você pode participar deste estudo se você for...

- Com idades entre 18 e 35 anos.
- Nacional africano ou de ascendência africana
- Estudar ou trabalhar em estatística, demografia, matemática ou ciência de dados.
- Residente na África ou na diáspora

Por que sua participação é importante: A Agenda 2063 da África alerta que, sem dados oportunos, o progresso dos ODS não pode ser mensurado. Este estudo ajuda governos a encontrar e investir em jovens estatísticos como você. Leia mais sobre a primeira fase do estudo da YASA, "Tornando os Dados Compreensíveis", em nosso site: www.youngstatisticians.org/what-we-do/

Escaneie o código abaixo para participar.

ou digite o URL abaixo no seu navegador [HTTPS://BIT.LY/MAPPINGYASRESEARCH2](https://bit.ly/mappingyasresearch2)

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WITO KWA WASHIRIKI WA UTAFITI - UTAFITI WA YASA WA KUENDELEZA UFAHAMU WA DATA

Je, wewe ni kijana wa Kiafrika mtaalamu wa takwimu (YAS)?

Tunafanya utafiti wa kujua wanatakwimu wachanga wanaosaidia kuendeleza mustakabali wa Afrika katika data. Jibu lako la dakika 10 linachangia ushahidi

Unaweza kushiriki katika utafiti huu ikiwa una...

- Umri wa miaka 18-35
- Raia wa Kiafrika au mwenye asili ya Kiafrika
- Kusoma au kufanya kazi katika takwimu, demografia, hisabati au sayansi ya data
- Unapatikana Afrika au diaspora

Kwa Nini Ushiriki Wako Ni Muhimu: Ajenda ya Afrika ya 2063 inaonya kwamba bila data ya wakati, maendeleo ya SDG hayawezi kupimwa. Utafiti huu unasaidia serikali kupata na kuwekeza katika wanatakwimu wachanga kama wewe. Soma zaidi kuhusu Awamu ya kwanza ya utafiti wa YASA "Kufanya Data Ieleweke" kwenye tovuti yako: www.youngstatisticians.org/what-we-do/

Changanya msimbo ulio hapa chini ili kushiriki

au andika URL hapa chini kwenye kiongoji chako [HTTPS://BIT.LY/MAPPINGYASRESEARCH2](https://bit.ly/mappingyasresearch2)

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Young African Statisticians MDC Phase 1 Research Team:

Ms. Lillian Ayebale (Ph.D.) (Uganda, Principle Investigator (PI)

Ms. Kareithi Dorcas (Kenya, co-investigator)

Mr. Ashenafi Alemu Tessema (Ethiopia, co-investigator)

Mr Axel Keza (Burundi, co-investigator/YASA Deputy Secretary)

Ms. Nakazwe Chikoloma (Zambia, co-investigator)

Lyne Nzinza (YASA Executive: Capacity Building Programmes)

Sarah Mutheu (YASA Executive: Strategy and Research Programmes)

Sean Sithole (Ph.D.) (YASA Executive: Comms and Media)

YASA Welcomes A New Chapter: Burundi

A New Partnership in Burundi with APROSTAB

We are delighted to announce a new partnership with the Association des Professionnels de la Statistique du Burundi (APROSTAB), a network of professional statisticians committed to advancing statistical practice and capacity development in Burundi. Through this collaboration, APROSTAB will serve as the host organization for YASA's Burundi Chapter. Together, we will organize training programs, capacity-building initiatives, knowledge-sharing sessions, professional networking opportunities, and other collaborative activities aimed at strengthening the statistical community. We are particularly excited about this partnership, which represents an important step in expanding our engagement with francophone communities and enriching our Francophone portfolio across the region.

We look forward to a fruitful collaboration and the positive impact it will bring to statisticians, researchers, and data professionals in Burundi and beyond.

Stay tuned for upcoming activities and opportunities!



Un nouveau partenariat au Burundi avec l'APROSTAB

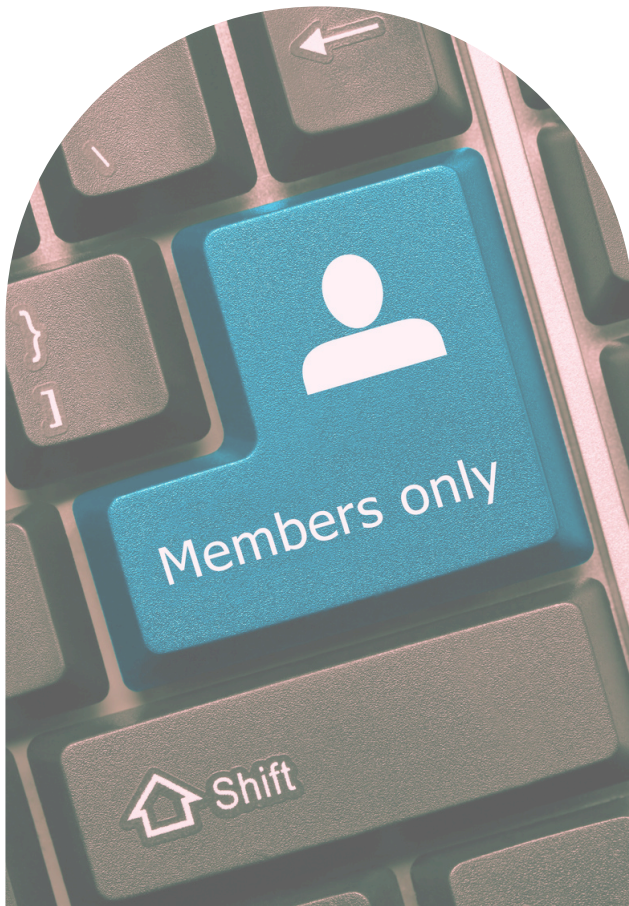
Nous sommes ravis d'annoncer la mise en place d'un nouveau partenariat avec l'Association des Professionnels de la Statistique du Burundi (APROSTAB), un réseau de statisticiens professionnels engagé dans la promotion de la pratique statistique et le renforcement des capacités au Burundi. Dans le cadre de cette collaboration, l'APROSTAB abritera notre section pays de YASA au Burundi. Ensemble, nous organiserons des formations, des activités de renforcement des capacités, des sessions de partage d'expériences, des opportunités de réseautage professionnel ainsi que d'autres initiatives visant à renforcer la communauté statistique. Nous nous réjouissons particulièrement de ce partenariat, qui constitue une étape importante dans le développement de notre engagement auprès des communautés francophones et dans l'élargissement de nos activités au sein de l'espace francophone de la région.

Nous sommes convaincus que cette collaboration sera fructueuse et qu'elle contribuera positivement au développement des statisticiens, chercheurs et professionnels des données au Burundi et au-delà.

Restez à l'écoute pour découvrir nos prochaines activités et opportunités !

Members Articles & Stakeholders News

Get to know what our members are up to, their achievements, and news from our stakeholders. 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.



Advancing African-led Solutions for Sustainability: Reflections from SRI2026 by Dr. Siphon Felix Mamba

Between 22 and 26 June 2026, Dr. Siphon Felix Mamba had the privilege of attending the Sustainability Research and Innovation (SRI2026) Africa Regional Conference in Cape Town, South Africa. This year's gathering marked a significant evolution as the Africa Regional Conference took centre stage as the primary SRI convening, reflecting the continent's growing leadership in global sustainability discourse.

The conference theme, **"Advancing African-led solutions for sustainability transformation,"** underscored a powerful message: Africa is not merely a beneficiary of global sustainability initiatives but a driver of transformative change. The event brought together over 300 researchers, policymakers, innovators, and practitioners to address challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, and social inequality through research, innovation, and policy integration.



Dr. Mamba during the SRI2026 conference

Panel Discussion: The Political Economy of Just Transition in Sub-Saharan Africa

A highlight of the conference was Dr. Mamba's participation in a panel session exploring the political economy of just transition in Sub-Saharan Africa. Anchored in climate justice and just transition frameworks, the session critically examined tensions between global climate agendas, national policy priorities, and local climate actions. Panellists explored whose knowledge, interests, and priorities shape transition policies, and how these choices affect livelihoods, economic growth, and social wellbeing.

The discussion foregrounded distributive, procedural, recognition, and restorative justice—elevating African perspectives in global transition debates. Central to the deliberations was the question: Are dominant pathways towards net-zero emissions feasible, fair, and desirable in contexts marked by energy poverty, inequality, and unemployment?

Dr. Mamba's Contribution: Climate and Gender Justice in Eswatini

Dr. Mamba's talk, titled "***Climate and Gender Justice in Eswatini: Towards a Just Transition***," focused on the intersection of climate change impacts and gender inequality.

He argued that there can be no climate justice without gender justice. Drawing on his research on early warning systems and food security in Eswatini, he highlighted how climate shocks disproportionately affect women, who often lack decision-making authority in patriarchal communities and face barriers to accessing timely, actionable information.

Looking Ahead

The SRI2026 conference reinforced that African-led solutions—grounded in African realities, informed by indigenous knowledge, and strengthened by science—are

essential for building a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future. As young African statisticians, Dr. Mamba encourages YASA members to engage actively in these conversations and contribute their unique skills to the continent's sustainability transformation.



Dr Mamba with panel members during the SRI2026 conference



Dr Mamba enjoying a light moment during the conference

Reflections from the Global Data Festival 2026, Powering Resilience by Mr Vitalis Odhiambo

Nairobi played host, from the 2nd to the 5th of June 2026, to a landmark gathering of minds at the intersection of data, space and technology. I had the privilege of attending the Global Data Festival 2026 and the Kenya Space Expo Conference, held jointly at the Edge Hotel and Convention Centre under the theme "Powering Resilience, Innovation, and Partnership through Data and Technology." Organized by the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and the Kenya Space Agency, this was the first event of its kind to be hosted on African soil, and the significance of that fact was not lost on any of us in the room.



Vitalis listening keenly to one of the sessions

A global conversation

Over four days, more than 1,300 participants from over 90 countries convened for close to 100 sessions, bringing together government leaders, National Statistics Offices, private sector actors, civil society organizations and, notably, a strong contingent of young people. The scale of the gathering reflected something important: data is no longer a niche technical concern, but a shared continental priority.

The festival's programme spanned a wide range of pressing issues. I sat in on sessions covering human-centered data and its real-world impact, the role of inclusive data in building a more equitable future, the practical application of AI to public data, and the challenge of unlocking investment in data ecosystems. Other conversations tackled how to connect AI governance to AI practice, the role of youth leadership in data and statistics, the global push to harness mobile phone data for statistical purposes, and the broader question of how data uptake can be improved in policymaking. A session on AI and emerging technologies weighed the opportunities against the risks, while another explored how inclusive collaboration can advance AI and data science for the benefit of official statistics

What I Took Away

A few ideas from the festival have stayed with me since ie

- The future of data is connected to its political future. Should the data systems be transformed? Or should they be optimized? The origin of statistics having a political background, suggests an imminent political presence that should not be allowed to dominate the data outcomes.
- Data is not power, power is power, data is a manifestation of power.
- Data holds immense possibilities and ability to shape us and our future. However, we need to get data right and use the right infrastructures to get the desired outcomes.
- For data to be effective, it has to be inclusive. Inclusive of the differently abled, the marginalized communities and the youths.
- The youth should be intentionally be brought onboard, not to tick the box “symbolic inclusion”, but as key contributors in the data ecosystem.



(top) Vitalis with other attendees of the festival

(bottom) Panellists of a session on data infrastructure, and powers that shape AI systems



Observations from the Floor

Walking the halls and sitting through sessions, a few things stood out to me. The overwhelming majority of institutions represented, more than 80 percent, were themselves data-dependent organizations, which speaks to how central data has become across sectors. The age balance in the room was also striking, with youth well represented alongside more established professionals. The session topics themselves reflected a clear passion and intentionality among the organizers and participants alike.

One observation gave me pause, however: aside from IYASA-KE, no other country chapter of the Young African Statisticians Association was present at the festival. This is worth reflecting on as an association, particularly given how central youth participation was to the broader conversation happening in the room.



Having a light moment with some festival attendees

A Personal Reflection

It was an honor to attend the first Global Data Festival held on African soil. Engaging with statisticians and participants from across the world left me acutely aware of the importance of data infrastructure, and of how much further Africa still has to go in building it out. If there is one message I would carry forward from Nairobi, it is this: African governments must be intentional about investing in their own data systems, rather than continuing to depend on external funding that has, time and again, proven unreliable.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data team for facilitating my participation at the Global Data Festival and Kenya Space Expo Conference. My gratitude also goes to the session presenters and fellow delegates who made the event both intellectually enriching and genuinely enjoyable.

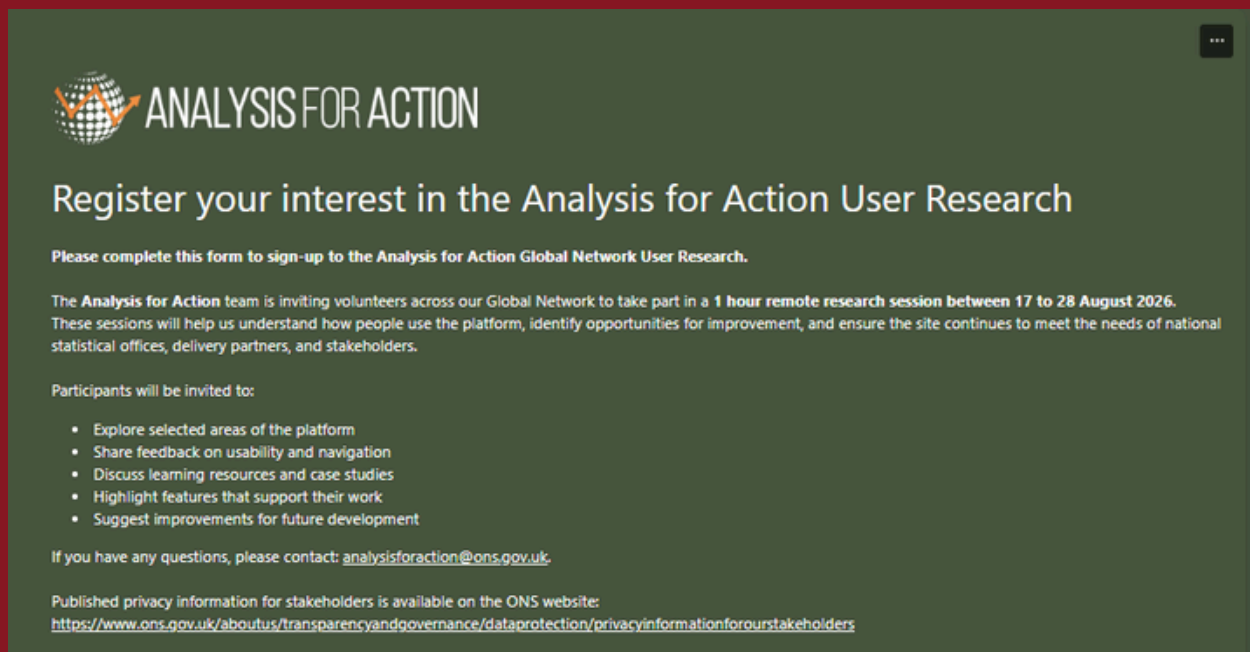
“It was an honor to attend the GDF 2026, the first of its kind on African soil. The interaction with Statisticians and participants from all over the world made me woke to the importance of data infrastructure and how Africa is lagging behind. The African governments should be intentional in investing in data systems, avoiding overdependence on external funding that have proven unreliable”



Vitalis after conclusion of the festival

Help Shape The Future of The Analysis for Action platform

The Analysis for Action (AfA) project are looking for volunteers to help test the AfA platform, which is being developed to provide resources and tools that support data-informed public health decision-making.

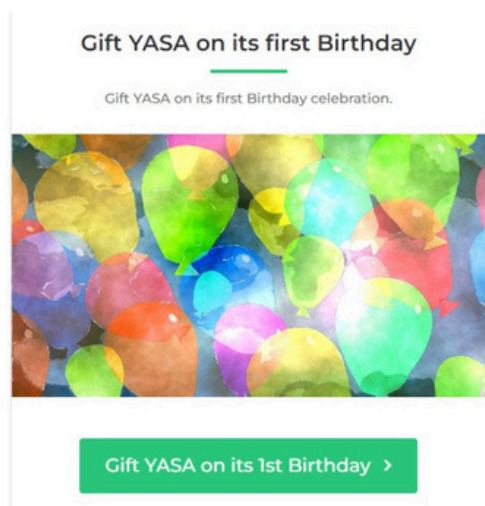
A screenshot of a registration form titled 'Register your interest in the Analysis for Action User Research'. The form has a dark green header with the 'ANALYSIS FOR ACTION' logo. The main content is on a light green background. It includes a heading, a paragraph about the purpose of the research, a list of activities participants will be invited to, and contact information. The form is titled 'Register your interest in the Analysis for Action User Research'. Below the title, it says 'Please complete this form to sign-up to the Analysis for Action Global Network User Research.' The main text states: 'The Analysis for Action team is inviting volunteers across our Global Network to take part in a 1 hour remote research session between 17 to 28 August 2026. These sessions will help us understand how people use the platform, identify opportunities for improvement, and ensure the site continues to meet the needs of national statistical offices, delivery partners, and stakeholders.' Below this, it says 'Participants will be invited to:' followed by a bulleted list: 'Explore selected areas of the platform', 'Share feedback on usability and navigation', 'Discuss learning resources and case studies', 'Highlight features that support their work', and 'Suggest improvements for future development'. At the bottom, it says 'If you have any questions, please contact: analysisforaction@ons.gov.uk' and 'Published privacy information for stakeholders is available on the ONS website: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyandgovernance/dataprotection/privacyinformationforourstakeholders>'.

Whether you are familiar with the platform or completely new to it, your feedback will help them improve its content, navigation and overall user experience. User research sessions will take place between **17 and 28 August 2026** and involve a one-hour remote session where you will explore the platform and share your feedback.

If you would like to take part, please register your interest via the sign-up form here on the hyperlink below

ANALYSIS FOR ACTION USER RESEARCH EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

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Give to support our activities
and country chapters



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

BECOME A MEMBER OF YASA



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)

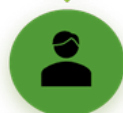
\$15



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



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