

Editorial

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The *African Human Mobility Review* (AHMR), published on August 30, 2026, is now available in Volume 12, Number 2. This edition compiles current, thorough, and innovative research on various aspects of human migration throughout Africa. Each of the five research pieces adds to the current discussions about the dynamics and trends of migration. The AHMR's solid interdisciplinary foundation, extensive international network of scholars, and seasoned editorial board ensure that published material promotes informed discourse and evidence-based policymaking.

We sincerely thank the publisher, writers, reviewers, and members of the editorial board for their support and dedication. The journal's growth and quality are maintained by their combined efforts. We are committed to enhancing the AHMR's scholarly significance and worldwide visibility as it develops. Examining current migration trends, new issues, and policy-relevant information influencing human movement throughout the African continent is made possible by this subject.

The first article, authored by Lamin Saidyjen and Safiatou Drammeh and titled **"My Future Is Not Here: Youth Perceptions and Migration Intentions in The Gambia"** draws on a quantitative research design grounded in analyzing and interpreting numerical data to test hypotheses, find patterns, and generalize results to a wider population. In The Gambia, where irregular migration to Europe continues to escalate, this study investigates the relationship between youth perceptions and migration intentions. The goal was to ascertain whether young Gambians' plans to leave permanently are influenced by perceived economic opportunity, social affiliation, and personal hope. A structured questionnaire was disseminated to participants as part of a quantitative cross-sectional design. The Smart Partial Least Squares (SmartPLS) statistical software program for structural equation modeling and the statistical software for descriptive statistics were used to examine the data. The results demonstrate that migratory intentions are strongly, negatively, and significantly impacted by perceived economic opportunity.

The second article, by Mouhi Eddine Sadaoui and Souad Azizi, is titled **"Navigating Borders and Screens: ICT Practices and Digital Migratory Mimicry in the Sub-Saharan Boza Journey."** This study focuses on Cameroonians who pass via Morocco on their way to Europe. The study illustrates the conflicting role of

ICTs at various stages of migration through a novel, hybrid, multi-sited technique that combines biographical interviews, digital narrative cartography, and virtual ethnography of a “*boza*” Facebook community. Although these technologies offer vital tools for empowerment and survival, they also create new vulnerabilities and strengthen digital imaginaries that could promote the perpetuation of movement patterns. In order to explain how idealized success narratives that circulate online can encourage irrational aspirations and high-risk migratory behavior, the study presents “digital migratory mimicry.” Therefore, by emphasizing emotive and communal digital dynamics, it goes beyond rational-choice approaches.

The third article, by Supreme Edwin Asare, Edmond Akwasi Agyemang, Michael Addaney, and Kofi Takyi Asante, is titled “**Childhood Experiences, Self-Efficacy, and Migration Aspirations Among African Youth: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.**” This systematic review examines the relationships between childhood experiences, self-efficacy, and migration aspirations across African contexts. A life-course view is supported by the findings, which show that negative childhood experiences are linked to higher goals for migration, while pleasant experiences are linked to lower expectations. These associations may be mediated by self-efficacy. Significant variation persists despite consistency across several situations and study methods. It is unable to draw judgments about causality because the majority of the evidence is cross-sectional and retroactive. Rather, the results point to a systematic relationship between childhood and adolescent experiences and subsequent aspiration patterns, underscoring the necessity of long-term studies. In addition to challenging adult-centered migratory governance, these associations highlight the significance of youth opportunity, education, and child welfare within larger policy frameworks.

The fourth article, by Bezawork Ayele Kassa, is titled “**Migrant Women in the Labor Force in South Africa: A Mixed-Methods Analysis.**” Using a mixed-methods approach, this study investigates migrant women’s labor-market access, working conditions, and employment networks in South Africa. Results show that while migrant women actively engage in the workforce, informal networks, legal status, and gendered labor-market segmentation have a significant impact on their employment prospects. Many work in low-paying, unstable, and unofficial jobs where there are few labor laws and a considerable danger of exploitation. Long hours, low pay, and abuse are frequent working circumstances that reflect migrants’ limited access to official employment prospects and minimal bargaining strength. Although social networks and middlemen are essential in helping migrant women find work, structural obstacles still prevent them from being fully included in the economy. The study highlights the need for policies that improve workplace conditions, protection, and employment access while providing empirical insights into the interconnections of migration, gender, and labor.

The fifth article by Amina Mohammed Bashir and Abdul-Maliq Yekeen Oku, is titled “**Human Capital Flight: The *Japa* Phenomenon and Nigeria’s Economic Growth Assessment.**” Using an ex-post-facto research design, this study employs

a Vector Error Correction Model (VECM) to examine the short- and long-run relationships between gross domestic product (GDP) and net migration, workers' remittances, foreign direct investment, and exchange rates. The results demonstrate that net migration considerably lowers Nigeria's economic performance, suggesting that skilled people's departure affects the country's ability to produce. The report also connects the increasing "*Japa syndrome*" to both stronger international pull factors and worsening home push factors, like unemployment and economic distress. According to these results, migration is a major structural issue that needs immediate policy action. The loss of human capital cannot be compensated for by remittance inflows alone. In order to retain competent individuals and promote sustainable national development, the report suggests policies that encourage economic growth, job opportunities, and a favorable business climate.

Finally, I encourage researchers, academics, and students to actively participate in the journal by pursuing creative research that makes significant practical and societal contributions. Potential contributors are encouraged to submit innovative, thorough, and pertinent research that advances understanding and tackles current issues. Contributors can enhance scholarly conversation, increase the journal's academic impact, and foster interdisciplinary dialogue by offering new viewpoints and critical insights. Maintaining involvement will guarantee that the magazine continues to be a dynamic forum for critical analysis and the sharing of evidence-based knowledge.