



International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
Union internationale pour l'étude scientifique de la population

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Forthcoming IUSSP Council Meeting

The newly elected IUSSP Council will hold the first meeting of its four-year mandate on 7–8 April at IUSSP Headquarters, hosted by INED on the Condorcet Campus in Aubervilliers, in the Paris region. The Council will discuss priorities for the Union, including the review of new Scientific Panels and activities, preparations for IUSSP's centenary in 2028, and early planning for the International Population Conference (IPC2029) in Barcelona, Spain.

[\(Read more\)](#)

IUSSP activities

Toward a Demography of Crisis and Resilience

Crises and shocks are reshaping population dynamics worldwide – from climate disruption and forced displacement to conflict, pandemics, and economic upheaval. What do these shocks mean for fertility, family life, migration, and health? And how can demographers support policy and crisis response when data is incomplete, delayed, or unreliable? This lively roundtable held on March 3rd, with 5 speakers – Roman Hoffmann, Orsola Torrasi, Natalie Nitsche, Cassio Turra and Arnstein Aassve – explores both short-term emergencies and longer-term demographic consequences.

[\(Read more\)](#)



Bringing a Rights, Justice and Person-Centered Lens to FP Measurement

The IUSSP Scientific Panel on Rethinking Family Planning Measurement with a Reproductive Justice and Rights Lens has been working for the last three years to help strengthen measurement of the need for and use of family planning. This presentation at the “Lundis de l’INED” lecture series on 16 March 2026 entitled **"Rethinking Global Family Planning Measurement: Bringing in a Rights, Justice and Person-Centered Lens"** provides a summary of the Panel’s work and important advancements being made in family planning measurement. [\(Read more\)](#)



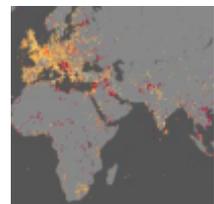
Climate Change, Environmental Hazards and Population Dynamics

Under the umbrella of the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Population Dynamics under Global Conflict and Climate Change, the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) hosted on 11–12 November 2025 a Conference on Climate Change, Environmental Hazards and Population Dynamics. The aim of the conference was to discuss how climate change and environmental hazards shape population dynamics through their effects on health, mortality, migration, and fertility. [\(Read more\)](#)



Demographic and Health Consequences of Violence and Armed Conflict

The aim of the symposium on Demographic and Health Consequences of Violence and Armed Conflict, held at MPIDR in Rostock, Germany on 1-2 July 2025 was to present original research examining the short- and long-term impacts of armed conflict and violence on mortality, migration, fertility, the environment, and population health and to provide a safe space for critical dialogues on conflict and conflict research. The event featured scholars from a variety of disciplines, including demography, public health, sociology, political science, and economics and included two keynotes - one by Rita Giacaman and one by Patrick Heuveline. [\(Read more\)](#)



Forthcoming IUSSP activities

IUSSP Debate: When Populations Shrink - Should States Encourage Births or Adapt?

Join us for a high-level virtual debate on April 1st, 2026 at 11 am UTC around the question: "Should nations with more deaths than births implement or increase incentives for childbearing and subsidies for child-rearing?" With opening insights on the question from Tomas Sobotka four world experts: Anna Rotkirch (Finland) & Reiko Hayashi (Japan) for the "Yes" team and Youngtae Cho (South Korea) & Vegard Skirbekk (Norway) for the "No" team. [\(Register in advance\)](#)



Training

Free online training in Demographic Methods and Population Analysis

The Population Studies Group at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine published a self-study course **Introduction to Demographic Methods and Population Analysis** for students and professionals. This course contains 28 interactive lectures, grouped into 3 modules. Topics include the very basics of the measurement and analysis of fertility, mortality and migration, but also cover population projections, life table applications, and population models. No prior training in demography or mathematics is required, and students can elect to focus on a selection of the sessions only. These materials were developed in 2014-2015 for IUSSP with financial support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the updated course is now made available through LSHTM's Open Study platform. ([Read more](#))



IUSSP Publications

N-IUSSP E-Book

From arrival to settlement. Vulnerabilities of asylum seekers and refugees in Europe, N-IUSSP, 2026. Edited by Daria Mendola.

([Download the E-Book for free](#))

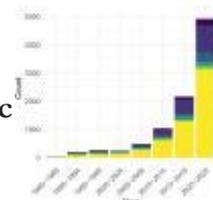


Members News

Opinion article co-written by several IUSSP members on the future of the Demographic and Health Survey, a topic of importance to many IUSSP members:

An opportunity to reform the DHS model

An Opinion piece published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)* argues that “In the wake of USAID cuts, we can create a **Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) Program founded on more equitable data infrastructure and stronger research integrity.**” ([Read more](#))



New: IUSSP members' blogs. *Do you have a blog or podcast on population issues that you would like to share with IUSSP members? Please send information to the IUSSP Secretariat (contact@iussp.org) for inclusion in the next Bulletin.*

Demography Matters – by Apoorva Jadhav

IUSSP member **Apoorva Jadhav** – former lead demographer at USAID and current Senior Fellow at the Population Reference Bureau, Non-Resident Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's South Asia Program, and Consultant at the William. H. Gates Sr. Institute at Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health – has launched a new Substack newsletter titled **Demography Matters**. At a time when demographic trends have become a battlefield for misinformation and alarmist rhetoric, Apoorva is on a mission to bridge the gap between dense academic research and the public's understanding of global change. Demography Matters translates rigorous population data and research into approachable, actionable, and engaging narratives for a non-technical audience. The newsletter's signature feature is the Demographic



Polar Twins series: Every week throughout 2026, Apoorva will explore 25 core indicators by pairing countries at demographic opposites, revealing the human stories and complexities behind the statistics. ([To read more about this blog and to subscribe, click here](#))

Rebecca Sear's blog

IUSSP member **Rebecca Sear** (Brunel University London) is a demographer, an anthropologist and a human behavioural ecologist who uses an interdisciplinary approach to understand human behaviour, incorporating an evolutionary theoretical framework into her research. She works on questions of demographic and public health interest, including fertility and reproductive development, child health and mortality, and health inequalities, and has a particular interest in the family and how family relationships influence these outcomes. She is also increasingly interested in issues related to research integrity, especially related to scientific racism and the resurgence of eugenics. Rebecca Sear has held a blog since 2019.



([To read this blog, click here](#))

Members' new publications

Budgeting sensitive to demographic dividend: principles, methods and applications, Latif Dramani [English & French versions]

([Read Summaries](#))

In memoriam

- **Iqbal Shah** (1950–2025)

Iqbal Shah died in Geneva on 28 December 2025. A long-time and active IUSSP member, he had joined the IUSSP in 1990. He participated in many IUSSP activities and chaired the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Reproductive Health (2011-2014).



New IUSSP members

Five new Members and 4 new Student Associates joined the IUSSP between 1 December 2025 and 28 February 2026. Please encourage your colleagues and students to become members.

([See list](#))

Regional Population Associations

XXI International AIDELF Conference

The XXIII International AIDELF Conference will take place in Montreal, Canada, 1-4 June 2027 entitled: « La démographie dans tous ses états ».

The Call for Papers will close on 15 April 2026.

([Read more](#))



2026 PAA Annual Meeting in St-Louis, MO

The 2026 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America (PAA) will take place in St. Louis, Missouri (United States) from 6 to 9 May. **Come visit the IUSSP booth if you are attending PAA 2026.**

([read more](#))



EPC 2026 in Bologna, Italy

The European Population Conference 2026 will convene in Bologna, Italy, 3-6 June. **Come visit the IUSSP booth if you are attending EPC 2026.**
([Read more](#))



2026 APA Conference in Hanoi

The Asian Population Association (APA) is pleased to announce that its **7th Asian Population Association Conference (7th APAC)** will be held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, 24-27 November 2026. The conference is organized in collaboration with the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA) and the Vietnam Population Association (VNPA). **Deadline for submission of paper or poster abstracts extended to 15 April 2026.**
([Read more](#))



2026 ALAP congress in San Jose, Costa Rica

The XII Congress of the Latin American Population Association (ALAP) will take place in San José, Costa Rica, 24-28 August 2026 on the theme "*New Frontiers: Demography, Digital Revolution, Democratization of Information and Dialogue in the Americas*".
([Read more on the ALAP website](#))



Other Announcements

A revitalization of the DHS Program

The Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) Program is back! High-quality, accessible, and actionable data that inform health and development efforts locally and globally. New surveys are underway, collecting population-based demographic, health, and nutrition data that are comparable across countries and over time. New datasets are available (for free) to researchers, programmers, and policymakers. Targeted innovations are in progress to enhance data quality and streamline survey processes. New funding models are being explored to support partner countries' data needs and the long-term future of the DHS Program. Data from all 470+ DHS Program surveys are accessible at dhsprogram.com.
([Read more](#))



European Parenting Leave Policies Dataset

The new European Parenting Leave Policies (EPLP) Dataset provides (for free) harmonised information on maternity, co-parent, paid parental, and job-protected leave regulations across 21 European countries from 1970 to 2024. It focuses on statutory entitlements that shape how long birth mothers and co-parents can take leave around childbirth, enabling comparative analyses of policy developments, cross-national differences, and the impact of major reforms on families and labour markets. The dataset includes 33 variables on leave duration, benefit generosity, flexibility, and incentives for sharing leave, and is accompanied by detailed documentation (codebook, country reform timelines, definitions, and data collection guidelines).
([Read more](#))



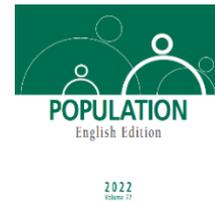
CSDE Seminar Series

Each Friday from 12:30-1:30pm Pacific Time, the **Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology (CSDE), University of Washington's Seminar Series** brings top demographers and population health scientists from around the world to a classroom near you. CSDE's seminars are predominantly in a hybrid format. See the full list of seminars in the Spring 2026 Seminar Schedule. If you missed a CSDE seminar you can watch recordings of past seminars. ([Read more](#))



Population and its Early-Career Prize

Population is an international, scientific, and peer-reviewed journal published by the French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED). It is published quarterly in both English and French and is an open-access journal with no article processing charges (APC). *Population* publishes research articles from various fields of population studies, covering all regions of the world and time periods. The journal accepts short papers, data papers as well as book reviews and commentaries. They can be submitted in either English or French. Each year, *Population* awards a prize to honor the work of an early-career researcher (within a maximum of 7 years post-PhD). The prize includes €1,000 and an invitation to Paris to present the article at INED's weekly seminar. **Deadlines for submissions: 30 April and 15 October 2026.** ([Read more](#))



European Doctoral School of Demography

The European Doctoral School of Demography (EDSD) is a fully funded 11-month program for Master's degree students in demography or related fields. Courses are taught in English and focus on developing students' quantitative and programming skills. In 2026-2027, the program will be held in 2 locations: MPIDR, in Rostock, Germany (Sept-Oct) and the SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland (Nov-July). **Deadline for applications: 27 March 2026 (at noon, CET).** ([Read more](#))

European Doctoral
School of Demography



Master's Programme in Global Demography, University of Vienna

The University of Vienna Master Programme on "Global Demography" will welcome its next cohort on 1 October 2026. The principal aim of this two-year English language Master's Programme is to give students a strong scientific grounding in the analysis and forecasting of demographic developments across the globe – in particular, fertility, mortality, and migration trends as well as human capital formation. **Deadline for applications: 7 April 2026.** ([Read more](#))



Rutgers School of Public Health SRHRJ MPH

Rutgers School of Public Health is accepting applications for our new **Master of Public Health (MPH) in Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice**. Applications are being reviewed on a rolling, space-available basis, and we encourage interested candidates to apply. This **100% online program** is designed for working professionals and students seeking flexibility. Students may enroll full-time or part-time, and courses are offered in a mixed online format with both live (synchronous) and self-paced (asynchronous) components. ([Read more](#))



N-IUSSP

Recent articles

- Formal childcare and the next child in ten European countries - Jonas Wood
- Not just later: why marriage is disappearing in South Korea - Sam Hyun Yoo
- Your partner's education shapes your survival - Marika Jalovaara, Cecilia Potente and Lydia Palumbo
- The role of polygyny in sub-Saharan Africa's fertility decline - Sophia Chae and Victor Agadjanian
- Small-scale mortality in Italy: 2002–2018 - Gustavo De Santis, Federico Benassi, Gianni Carboni and Mauro Maltagliati
- Ebook: From arrival to settlement. Vulnerabilities of asylum seekers and refugees in Europe - Daria Mendola
- Fertility postponement is not a universal correlate of fertility decline - Thomas Spoorenberg and Vegard Skirbekk
- The disproportionate burden of multi-morbidity at death in the US - Magali Barbieri, Aline Désesquelles, Viviana Egidi, Luisa Frova, Francesco Grippo, France Meslé, Marilena Pappagallo and Sergi Trias-Llimós
- Policy polarization is rewriting the American geography of longevity - Anneliese N. Luck
- The growing importance of donor eggs in assisted reproductive technologies in UK - Ester Lazzari and Luzia Bruckamp
- Too much for the Dutch? How the Dutch baby boom affected kinship size in 2018 - Vera de Bel
- The importance of educational expansion for longevity trends - Jesús-Daniel Zazueta-Borboa, Ugofilippo Basellini and Fanny Janssen
- Silver splits and older adults' mental health in Europe: the role of children - Lisa Jessee and Deborah Carr
- Female early marriage and gendered fertility choices in Pakistan - Rashid Javed, Mazhar Mughal and Thierry Lorey



[\(Read articles\)](#)

Calls

Calls for papers

- Demog-Crazy 2026 Award. Deadline for submissions: 1 April 2026
- Colloque de l'AIDELF 2027 « La démographie dans tous ses états », Montréal, Canada, 1–4 juin 2027. Deadline for submissions: 15 April 2026
- 7th Asian Population Association Conference (7th APAC), Hanoi, Viet Nam, 24-27 November 2026. Deadline for submissions: 15 April 2026
- EPC2026 Pre-conference Open Workshop: Comparative Family Research with Population Register Data, Bologna, Italy, 3 June 2026. Deadline for registration/submission: 20 April 2026
- NTA Africa Conference 4th edition, “Generational Economy and Care Economics at the Heart of Public Policies in Africa”, Mbour, Senegal, 28-30 July 2026. Deadline for submissions: 30 April 2026
- Wittgenstein Centre Conference (WIC2026) – "Demography and Human Capital", Vienna, Austria, 1-2 December 2026. Submission deadline: 30 April 2026
- International Webinar on Parenthood in the 21st Century: Fertility Services into Focus, Online, 17–18 August 2026. Deadline for submissions: 30 April 2026

- *Population* journal and its Early-Career Researcher Prize. Submission deadlines: 30 April or 15 October 2026
- **IUSSP Workshop: Epidemics, Gender, and Public Institutions in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries**, Palma (Majorca), Spain, 2–3 July 2026. Deadline for submissions: 1 May 2026
- Special Issue of *Vienna Yearbook of Population Research* on "Demographic perspectives on migration". Deadline for submissions: 15 May 2026.
- Thematic series of *Genus* on Population Structures and Dynamics, and Social Change: Studies in Honor of Antonio Golini. Deadline for submissions: 31 October 2026

Training

Training courses and workshops

- European Doctoral School of Demography (EDSD) 2026-2027, MPIDR, Rostock, Germany (Sept-Oct) & SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland (Nov 2026-July 2027). Deadline for applications: 27 March 2026 (at noon, CET)
- 3rd Edition of the Barcelona Four Seasons School of Demography - Bcn4Seasons School, Barcelona, Spain: *Social Indicators: Theory and Applications* - 28 September–1 October 2026. Registration deadline: 15 July 2026. *Marriage, Cohabitation, and Singlehood in Population Perspective*, 5–8 October 2026. Registration deadline: 20 July 2026

Career and Study Opportunities

Jobs/Fellowships/PhD Positions/Post-Docs

- Post-Doctoral Researcher at the MPIDR Research Group on Labor Demography. Deadline for applications: 8 April 2026
- Doctoral Student Position in the MPIDR Lab of Migration and Mobility of the Department of Digital and Computational Demography. Deadline for applications: 15 April 2026
- Coordinator, Max Planck Research School for Population, Health and Data Science (IMPRS-PHDS). Deadline for applications: 17 April 2026
- Tenure-Track Professor in Demography and Human Capital Formation, University of Vienna. Deadline for applications: 22 April 2026
- Postdoctoral Research Associate in demography and population studies, Princeton University. Deadline for applications: 30 June 2026

Calendar

Forthcoming IUSSP meetings & other events

- Ohio Population Consortium Webinar: The Relational Context of Fertility Goals, Online, 25 March 2026
- 2026 CRVS Research Forum, organized by ESCAP, ECA and Vital Strategies, Bangkok, Thailand & online, 30 March-1 April 2026
- **IUSSP Debate - When Populations Shrink: Should States Encourage Births or Adapt?** Online, 1 April 2026
- 16th Supercentenarian International Seminar, Paris, France, 9-10 April 2026
- 2026 PAA Annual Meeting, St. Louis (Missouri), United States, 6-9 May 2026
- European Population Conference (EPC 2026), Bologna, Italy, 3-6 June 2026
- **Conference on Kinship Structures, Dynamics, and Inequalities**, Rostock, Germany, 8-9 June 2026

- 13th Annual International Conference on Demography and Population Studies, organized by ATINER, Athens, Greece, 15-19 June 2026
- XII Congress of the Latin American Population Association (ALAP), San José, Costa Rica, 24-28 August 2026
- 7th Asian Population Association Conference, Hanoi, Vietnam, 24-27 November 2026
- Wittgenstein Centre Conference (WIC2026) – "Demography and Human Capital", Vienna, Austria, 1-2 December 2026
Colloque de l'AIDELF 2027 « La démographie dans tous ses états », Montréal, Canada, 1-4 June 2027

Submit your announcements

Feel free to share news from your institution and region so that we can keep all IUSSP members informed about recent or forthcoming events and opportunities in the population field. IUSSP members are welcome to submit information on [conferences](#), [calls for papers](#), [training](#), [career or study opportunities](#) as well as their [recent publications](#) or [peer-reviewed software](#) for inclusion in the newsletter and IUSSP website. Please send the information to contact@iusssp.org and remember to include important dates for application deadlines (and photos when appropriate). Information should be sent by email or in a Word document so that it can be edited. For inclusion in the next Bulletin, please send information **by 1 June 2026**. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

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Forthcoming IUSSP Council Meeting

Aubervilliers, France, 7-8 April 2026

The newly elected IUSSP Council will hold the first meeting of its four-year mandate on 7–8 April at IUSSP Headquarters, hosted by INED on the Condorcet Campus in Aubervilliers, just north of Paris. This in-person meeting will provide an opportunity for new Council members to get to know one another and strengthen working relationships ahead of what will likely be a series of virtual meetings in the coming years.

The Council will discuss priorities for the Union, including the review of new Scientific Panels and activities, preparations for IUSSP’s centenary in 2028, and early planning for the International Population Conference (IPC) 2029 in Barcelona, Spain. Discussions will also address strategic considerations for operating in a context of reduced resources.

IUSSP members are warmly invited to contribute ideas and perspectives—Council members welcome your input and look forward to hearing from you.

Below is a list of the 2026-2029 Council members: Laura Rodriguez Wong (President), Reiko Hayashi (Vice President), Anne Goujon (Secretary General & Treasurer) and Council members Visseho Adjwanou, Ayaga Bawah, Aude Bernard, Georgina Binstock, Grace Cruz, Sara Curran, Albert Esteve, Ann Moore and Nico van Nimwegen.



Toward a Demography of Crisis and Resilience

3 March 2026

Highlights from the IUSSP Webinar

On 3 March, the IUSSP revived its webinar series with *Toward a Demography of Crisis and Resilience*, revisiting a plenary session from the International Population Conference (IPC2025) in Brisbane last July. Bringing together leading scholars working on climate change, armed conflict, pandemics, and economic shocks, the discussion explored how demography can better understand populations in an increasingly unstable world.

Moderator **Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi** (Vienna Institute of Demography and IIASA) opened by noting that while crises are not new, today's context is marked by their simultaneity, interconnection, and persistence. Climate change, conflict, pandemics, and economic instability are no longer isolated events but form the structural backdrop to demographic processes. This raises a key question: are existing concepts and data systems adequate for a world where instability is recurrent rather than exceptional?

Roman Hoffmann (IIASA) highlighted climate change as both an environmental and social crisis, shaped by inequality and vulnerability. With an estimated 1.8 billion people exposed to heightened climate risks, he emphasized the need to integrate demographic insights into climate research, particularly regarding migration, health, fertility, and mortality.

Focusing on armed conflict, **Orsola Torrissi** (McGill University) examined its longer-term and indirect demographic effects. Beyond mortality and displacement, conflict influences family dynamics, health, and inequality through complex social and psychological pathways. She also underscored the challenges of working with incomplete or contested data in crisis settings.

Natalie Nitsche (Australian National University) reflected on lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly its uneven impacts across populations. She called for more integrated approaches that link health crises to broader demographic processes, including family behavior, migration, and inequality.

Cassio Turra (Cedeplar, Brazil) explored how economic and political shocks shape demographic outcomes, emphasizing the role of institutions. Policies and social protection systems can determine whether crises lead to temporary disruptions or lasting demographic change.

Arnstein Aassve (Bocconi University) concluded by reframing resilience as the capacity to adapt and transform, rather than simply recover. While education, health, and institutions can strengthen resilience, responses to crises may also reinforce existing inequalities.

The webinar included an audience Q & A moderated by **Nico van Nimwegen**. The webinar closed with a call for interdisciplinary collaboration, improved data systems, and new frameworks to understand what is increasingly described as an era of “polycrisis.” Demography, participants emphasized, must evolve to remain responsive to these complex and interconnected challenges.

A full, lightly edited [transcript of the webinar](#) is available here for those who would like to read the proceedings. The **video recording** is accessible below along with the **PowerPoint presentations**.

Watch a recording of the webinar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GR8JkRAh_d8

Speakers & presentations:

Panelists:

- **Roman Hoffmann** (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis - IIASA) — **The Climate Crisis**
- **Orsola Torrasi** (McGill University) — **Population dynamics and global conflict**
- **Natalie Nitsche** (Australian National University) — **Pandemics and Health Crises**
- **Cassio Turra** (Cedeplar, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais) — **Economic and Political Shocks & Demographic Changes**
- **Arnstein Aassve** (Bocconi University)— **Resilient Populations**

Moderator: **Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi** (Vienna Institute of Demography)

Q&A Moderator: **Nico van Nimwegen** (Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute - NIDI)

- **Q&A - List of questions and answers*** (**those not answered orally*)

Rethinking Global Family Planning Measurement: Bringing in a Rights, Justice and Person-Centered Lens

IUSSP at the “Lundi d’INED” – 16 March 2025

IUSSP Scientific Panel co-chairs Ilene Speizer (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) and Beth Sully (Guttmacher Institute), of the **IUSSP Panel on Rethinking Family Planning Measurement Using a Reproductive Justice and Rights Lens**, presented the Panel’s work at INED on the Condorcet Campus in Aubervilliers, France, as part of IUSSP’s annual session in the *Lundi de l’INED* lecture series. Heini Väisänen (INED) served as discussant. The presentations were delivered in English, with simultaneous interpretation in French for participants joining online worldwide. The session provided an overview of the Panel’s three-year programme and recent advances in family planning measurement.

Watch video recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0c_S-hFJFs

Supported by a 2023 grant from the Gates Foundation, the Panel’s mandate is to examine how to better measure the need for and use of family planning. The Panel’s work draws on the frameworks of reproductive rights, reproductive justice, and person-centered measurement. They presented the findings from a global consensus-building process and a recommendations workshop held in November 2025.

The presentation highlighted the need to move beyond traditional indicators focused on contraceptive prevalence, unmet need, and demand satisfied, toward approaches that incorporate human rights, justice, and person-centered perspectives to better capture individual preferences, autonomy, and rights.

Current frameworks, including SDG indicator 3.7.1, rely on “demand satisfied,” based on contraceptive use among women classified as in need. These measures have been widely critiqued for relying on assumptions about sexual activity, fertility desires, and marital status, and for conflating the desire to avoid pregnancy with the desire to use contraception.

While unmet need was considered to be a breakthrough for measuring women’s fertility desires in the 1990s, it still falls short of capturing individuals’ preferences and autonomy. A growing move toward person-centered measurement seeks to better align indicators with reproductive rights and justice by focusing on self-reported contraceptive preferences and experiences.

The discussion highlighted strong momentum and key challenges in developing and implementing new indicators. The speakers discussed emerging measures such as preference-aligned fertility management (PFM) and contraceptive concordance to identify individuals who are satisfied or dissatisfied with their current contraceptive situation. Early applications in India, Uganda, and Nigeria demonstrate both feasibility and growing interest.

Looking ahead, the Panel recommended that while “unmet need” should continue to be collected for trend analysis, it should no longer be interpreted as a direct measure of contraceptive demand.

The longer-term goal is to refine and implement alignment-based indicators. This will require further work on survey design, including question wording and sequencing, as well as how to incorporate method-specific preferences and satisfaction. Ensuring applicability across diverse populations—including marginalized groups—and clear communication to different audiences will also be critical.

Overall, the discussion underscored a broader shift toward measuring what people actually want and are able to achieve, placing individual agency at the center of demographic measurement. The Panel will publish its recommendations soon and has already contributed a special issue in *Studies in Family Planning* based on an expert meeting undertaken in March, 2024.

- **Slides**
- English and French transcripts will be prepared in the coming weeks.

Climate Change, Environmental Hazards and Population Dynamics

Rostock, Germany, 11–12 November 2025

Organized by Risto Conte Keivabu, Ebru Sanlitürk, Daniela Perrotta, Emilio Zagheni (MPIDR) and Raya Muttarak (University of Bologna).

Under the umbrella of the **IUSSP Scientific Panel on Population Dynamics under Global Conflict and Climate Change**, the **Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR)** hosted on 11–12 November 2025 a **Conference on Climate Change, Environmental Hazards and Population Dynamics**.

The aim of the conference was to discuss how climate change and environmental hazards shape population dynamics through their effects on health, mortality, migration, and fertility. Also, they discussed aspects related to inequality, adaptation, and resilience, in an interdisciplinary manner. The workshop also provided an opportunity for participants to present and discuss new methods and data for analyzing the links between climate and health, and climate and demography.

The conference programme included 6 keynote presentations, 22 regular presentations, a poster session including 5 posters and a final Panel discussion session. There were 58 participants in person, mainly from European and US institutions, as well as 50 participants who joined virtually, including from Africa, Asia and South America. The conference successfully initiated interdisciplinary dialogue between researchers from the fields of demography, sociology, epidemiology, and climate science, creating new connections between the disciplines and prospects for collaboration.

There was ample opportunity for exchange and discussion of innovative analytical approaches, particularly regarding the integration of spatial, administrative, and climate data to analyze impacts on outcomes such as migration, fertility, mortality and many others. Participants also took the opportunity to discuss which areas of research in the field of climate and population should be given priority. The combination of climate data, demographic methods, and health research opens up new joint venues of research to better understand population dynamics in the context of climate change.

- **Conference programme**

Participants in the Conference on Climate Change, Environmental Hazards and Population Dynamics, in Rostock in November 2025.
© MPIDR/Schulz



Demographic and Health Consequences of Violence and Armed Conflict

Rostock, Germany, 1–2 July 2025

Organized by:

- [Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research \(MPIDR\)](#)
- [Population, Health and Armed Conflict Network \(PHAC\)](#)
- [IUSSP Scientific Panel on Population Dynamics under Global Conflict and Climate Change](#)

Armed conflict and organized violence profoundly disrupt population structures, health trends, and mobility patterns. Moreover, the tumultuous events of war can make data collection prohibitive, presenting critical challenges for demographic research. Understanding the population and health consequences of violence and armed conflict requires nuanced theoretical frameworks, robust methodological approaches, and benefits greatly from multidisciplinary collaborations and novel statistical methods.

The aim of the symposium on Demographic and Health Consequences of Violence and Armed Conflict was to present original research examining the short- and long-term impacts of armed conflict and violence on mortality, migration, fertility, the environment, and population health and to provide a safe space for critical dialogues on conflict and conflict research.

The event featured scholars from a variety of disciplines, including demography, public health, sociology, political science, and economics. The programme included 2 keynotes - one by [Rita Giacaman](#) (Birzeit University, Palestine) and one by [Patrick Heuveline](#) (University of California, Los Angeles), 21 regular presentations, a poster session including 11 posters and a Social Networking Event. There were approximately 70 in-person participants, roughly half of them from European or North American institutions and the remainder from Asian, African and Middle Eastern institutions.

A recurring theme of the talks and conversations was how different each war context is. Keynote speaker Rita Giacaman's talk emphasized the importance of acknowledging and accepting the lived experience of people affected by war rather than trying to homogenize war under one theoretical umbrella. She offered examples of how her team has developed, tested, and validated new tools to appropriately capture the lived war experiences of people in Gaza. Another recurring theme was data scarcity. Data collection both during and after war is fraught with difficulty and the resulting data are often incomplete, of questionable quality, or too narrowly focused (e.g., counting war events or war deaths). Several presenters discussed possible approaches for mitigating poor quality data while also calling for innovations to help move the work forward.

- [Final programme](#)



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Free online training in Demographic Methods and Population Analysis

The Population Studies Group at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine published a self-study course **Introduction to Demographic Methods and Population Analysis** for students and professionals. This course contains 28 interactive lectures, grouped into 3 modules. Topics include the very basics of the measurement and analysis of fertility, mortality and migration, but also cover population projections, life table applications, and population models. No prior training in demography or mathematics is required, and students can elect to focus on a selection of the sessions only.

These materials were developed in 2014-2015 for IUSSP with financial support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the course is now made available through LSHTM's Open Study platform. The course can be accessed [here](#) (free registration required).

While these open access materials provide a useful substantive introduction to the subject, there is no computing support and it does not provide training in advanced methods. Interested students can pursue this through the the Demography & Health graduate training programme at LSHTM. Courses and individual modules are offered both online and in-person, making them suitable for full-time students as well as working professionals aiming to expand their skillset. The training curriculum can also be tailored to student interest and aptitude. Students with a strong quantitative background can focus on advanced computational methods and programming in the Population Data Science pathway. Students with a social science or policy interest can pursue this through the **Population Health and Policy pathway**.

USAID cuts create ‘long-overdue opportunity’ to rebuild global health data system

February 2026

The dismantling of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has led to the closure of its flagship Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) Program – long regarded as one of the world’s most important sources of population health data in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

But in a new **opinion piece** for PNAS, Jasmin Abdel Ghany (University of Oxford), Livia Montana (former Deputy Director of the DHS Program), and their co-authors argue that the cuts to USAID present a unique opportunity to reform and strengthen demographic and health survey data across the globe.

For decades, the DHS was instrumental in improving the evidence base for health policies and interventions, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia. Its data has been critically important in many fields, including maternal health, child health, immunisation, HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality, child mortality, fertility, family planning and reproductive health, malaria, and nutrition.

While a three-year grant by the Gates Foundation currently enables data access and data collection in some countries since July 2025, the future of the DHS Program remains uncertain beyond this period.

The scale of its contribution has been substantial – a recent UN analysis found that DHS surveys provided over half of the data points on national child mortality rates between 1950 and 2023, many of which were for LMICs. The programme helped fill critical data gaps and supported countless country-led initiatives.

However, the authors contend that the collapse in USAID support, while regrettable, presents a long-overdue opportunity to reform the DHS model. They argue that a revitalised system should be country-led, less expensive, and more equitable – and that data should be distributed freely across the world without US gatekeeping.

The proposal calls on country statistical offices to host and disseminate their own DHS datasets via national platforms to ensure long-term stability and local stewardship. Unrestricted access should be granted to governments, non-profit researchers, scholars, and students, given that the DHS data have already been anonymised and, in most cases, many years have passed since data collection.

Beyond the national storage of the data, the authors suggest depositing harmonised datasets in established global repositories such as IPUMS Global Health and the Gateway to Global Aging Data, ensuring broader accessibility and preservation.

To help build this future model, the authors argue that researchers could turn to underutilised high-quality and diverse data sources. Increased use of alternative data sources would help streamline future data collection across surveys and support the development of new survey and analysis tools. Diversifying population data inputs could minimise redundancy in future data collection efforts and make them more cost-effective.

They also call for expanded cross-national research collaborations, particularly between scholars in LMICs and those in high-income countries, to harmonise different data sources. Making methodologies publicly available would strengthen transparency and reproducibility. Embedding this work within local institutions such as national statistical offices and universities could further lower costs.

We must preserve access to DHS data as a global public good. This is the time for countries and stakeholders to develop a new model of data collection, harmonisation, ownership, and distribution.

The DHS Program made significant progress in ensuring that countries implemented surveys and directly owned the data. Future surveys must expand national control over survey content while maintaining international comparability. Data systems should continue to serve domestic policy needs while informing global health priorities.

Achieving this transition will require sustained, multi-institutional cooperation. Donors, governments, and research institutions must invest in durable, high-quality data systems that prioritise standardisation and harmonisation while placing LMIC institutions at the centre of governance and expertise.

The authors conclude:

Equity and accessibility must be the central principles that guide how we rebuild DHS data collection and access. Only then can we empower countries to achieve health and development goals.

Original Publication

J. Abdel Ghany, A.A. Nur, K.L.D. MacQuarrie, J. Wilde, E.A. Sully, M. Karra, U. Gazeley, B.M. John, & L. Montana, In the wake of USAID cuts, we can create a Demographic and Health Survey Program founded on more equitable data infrastructure and stronger research integrity, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 123 (9) e2513242123, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2513242123> (2026).

Iqbal H. Shah (1950-2025)

Iqbal Shah died in Geneva, Switzerland on 28 December 2025. A long-time and active IUSSP member, he had joined the IUSSP in 1990. He participated in many IUSSP activities and chaired the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Reproductive Health (2011-2014).



Originally from Pakistan, Iqbal Shah received his early education in Pakistan and his post-graduate degrees at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Brussels. He started his career at the World Fertility Survey in London (1982-1985), where he worked with the team analysing trends in fertility and its components.

From 1985 to 2012, Iqbal served at WHO's Human Reproduction Programme (HRP) and Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) in various capacities. For over a decade, he was the Team Leader for RHR's Preventing Unsafe Abortion group, and Responsible Officer managing the department's activities in Social Science and Operations Research in Sexual and Reproductive Health. At WHO, he shaped RHR's social science research and capacity building activities on under-researched topics in low and middle income countries. Over this period, his work contributed hugely to building social science research on wide-ranging aspects of sexual and reproductive health and rights. He spear-headed research initiatives on topics ranging from the determinants and consequences of unsafe abortion to contraceptive use dynamics in developing countries, the dual risk of unwanted pregnancy and HIV infection, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, the role of men in reproductive health, quality of care in reproductive health and more.

Iqbal was passionate about ensuring women's right to safe abortion. At WHO his contributions in the area of preventing unsafe abortion were particularly path-breaking and noteworthy. He played a key role in the development of WHO's first-ever guidance on safe abortion, a guidance manual, periodically revised, that sets out the path to improving access and safety for women globally. Together with Elizabeth Åhman, he produced global and regional estimates of the incidence and trends in induced abortion, both safe and unsafe. He pioneered, together with Ina Warriner and others, a study demonstrating the feasibility of providing first-trimester abortion by mid-level health care providers in low resource settings. Together with Mary Beth Weinberger, he edited the 2012 Supplement of the *International Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics* on improving access to medical abortion in developing countries.

From 2011-2014, Iqbal was Senior Advisor/Consultant, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation, Omaha, supporting activities related to the establishment of a Center dedicated to reproductive health research and evaluation, evaluating proposals, reviewing research and evaluation studies in reproductive health, and assessing the impact of vouchers schemes on enhancing access to sexual and reproductive health services. From 2014 to 2021, he worked as Principal Research Scientist, and from 2021 onwards, Visiting Scientist at the Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, where he served as the Principal Investigator of two large multi-country family planning projects. At Harvard, he continued conducting research on sexual and reproductive health matters, as well as mentoring students, giving lectures and presentations, and participating in various technical advisory committees.

Since 2021 until the present, he devoted time to work in his native country Pakistan, collaborating closely with Dr. Zeba Sathar and colleagues at the Population Council. He was deeply committed to advancing women's health and addressing Pakistan's daunting demographic challenges. Iqbal played a major role in the complex Pakistan Maternal Mortality Survey 2019, contributed to the study on Safeguarding women's health in Pakistan, and co-authored the article

estimating induced abortion in Pakistan with Zeba Sathar, Susheela Singh and colleagues. At the time of his passing, he was working on the Sindh Health and Population survey report.

Iqbal Shah became a member of IUSSP in 1990. Over the years, he contributed in many ways to its activities. Notably, he played a key role in the seminar on “Low Fertility and Reproductive Health in East and Southeast Asia” organised by the Scientific Panel on Policies in the Context of Low Fertility, held in Tokyo in November 2008 and co-edited the resulting IUSSP Springer volume [Low Fertility and Reproductive Health in East Asia](#). International Studies in Population, with Naohiro Ogawa (2014). During 2011-2014, he chaired [IUSSP’s Panel on Reproductive Health](#). This was an active Panel that held several seminars (Bangkok, Thailand; Kochi, India; and Nanyuki, Kenya), and published the 2015 Special issue of *Studies in Family Planning* (vol 46, issue 4) entitled "[Postpartum and Post-Abortion Contraception: From Research to Programs](#)", co-edited by Iqbal, together with K.G. Santhya and John Cleland.

In the course of his career, Iqbal travelled widely and collaborated extensively with scientists and policy makers from a number of countries in every region of the world. He had an enormous publication record, mentored countless colleagues and early career researchers from low- and middle-income countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In 2016, he received The Marjorie C. Horn Operations Research Award from USAID in recognition of his efforts to build the capacity of social science researchers in developing countries, expand the global evidence base on key sexual and reproductive health issues and accelerate change in policies and practices that improve the health, wellbeing and human rights of women and men around the world.

What we remember most, however, is his kindness to and respect for all, his wisdom, his ability to listen to and accommodate diverse perspectives, his humility, his ready laugh and infectious sense of humour, and his generosity of spirit. Iqbal remained a principled human being, never bagging the limelight while sharing his wisdom and time generously. He was not only a humane scientist dedicated to improving women’s health and rights but a mentor and caring friend to so many.

Iqbal touched many lives. He leaves a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of working with him. We mourn the loss of this extraordinary human being and celebrate the life of an individual who has touched many lives in so many ways.

Dr Iqbal Shah is survived by his wife Okyang Jade Kim, son Daniel Kim Shah, his sisters, Habibah Makhdum and Sabiha Makhdum and brother Najam Hasan. We share their loss.

Prepared by Dr Shah’s former team members at WHO, Shireen Jejeebhoy, Ina Warriner, Nicky Sabatini-Fox, Sarah Bott and by his colleagues at the Population Council, Islamabad, Zeba Sathar and Ali Mir.

New members

5 new members joined the IUSSP between 1 December 2025 and 28 February 2026.

Germany: Jasmin Abdel Ghany; Tobias Rüttenauer. **Kenya:** Myra Omondi. **Peru:** Madeleine Carol Larrú Chipana. **Thailand:** Wiraporn Pothisiri.

New Student Members

4 new student members joined the IUSSP between 1 December 2025 and 28 February 2026.

Cameroon: Stella Kapche. **France:** Alberto Taviani. **India:** Atma Prakash. **United Kingdom:** Eleanor Lucas.