Curriculum Vitae – Dr Estelle Sidze

**SUMMARY:** Dr Estelle M. Sidze is a demographer with extensive experience in research and community engagement on maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) within the African context. Dr Sidze currently leads the maternal, newborn and child health and wellbeing (MNCH-W) research portfolio at the African Population at Health Research Center (APHRC), one of the continent's premier research institutions and think tank, exploring questions of population health and development. Dr Sidze has led and managed several large-scale research and advocacy projects on ending preventable deaths through better understanding of the household dynamics of maternal, newborn and child health as well as social and structural barriers to universal access to quality maternal and child health, focusing particularly on vulnerable populations (i.e. young women, migrant women, urban poor women, and women and children living in arid and semi-arid areas). Her portfolio of research and implementation as principal investigator includes three pioneering studies: The Grand Challenges-funded project on Building Strong Minds for Stronger Adolescent Mothers in Nairobi slums, the USAID-funded NAWIRI longitudinal study on the household dynamics of children health and nutrition, and the NIH-funded JAMO Project which investigates the social determinants of maternal mental health in Nairobi slums using quantitative and qualitative methodologies. As one of the technical leads for the [Countdown 2030](https://www.countdown2030.org/) regional initiatives, she also advises on coverage and equity analyses across 26 African countries and has co-authored the forthcoming Countdown to 2030 Lancet report (*Tracking progress in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition: the Countdown to 2030 for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health report*)*.*

Dr. Sidze is the Co-chair of the Union for the African Population Study (UAPS) family planning and sexual and reproductive Panel (<https://uaps-uepa.org/current-panels/family-planning-srhr/>), a panel which provides a critical platform for advancing intellectual discourses on new ideas and perspectives on population, health and development in Africa. The panel also provides mentorship support for early/mid-career researchers in Africa.

Dr. Sidze thrives on ensuring that stakeholders and decision makers in sub-Saharan Africa have adequate quality data to deliver on the SDG commitment of leaving no one behind in the provision of maternal, child and newborn health services.

**NATIONALITY**: Cameroonian

EDUCATION:

* **PhD, Demography,** University of Montreal, Canada, 2011
* **Master’s** Demography**,** University of Montreal, Canada, 2006
* **Bachelor’s in social Geography,** University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon 2001

COUNTRIES OF WORK EXPERIENCE: 26 countries in sub-Saharan Africa (under the [Countdown 2030](https://www.countdown2030.org/))

LANGUAGES:

* **English**: Proficient in writing, speaking, and comprehension.
* **French:** Proficient in writing, speaking, and comprehension.

**EMPLOYMENT RECORD:**

* 1. **Research and professional experiences**
     1. **Research Scientist and lead for the MNCH and maternal mental health sub-units –** Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health Unit, African Population and Health Research Center (2019 – now)
     2. **Associate Research Scientist** – Maternal and Child Wellbeing Unit, African Population and Health Research Center (2013 – 2018)
     3. **Post-Doctoral Research Scientist** – Population Dynamics and Reproductive Health Unit, African Population and Health Research Center (2011 – 2013)
     4. **Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant** – University of Montreal, Canada (2008 – 2011)
     5. **Data Collector** – National Institute of Statistics, Cameroon (2002)
  2. **Other appointments** 
     1. **Co-chair of the Union for the African Population Study (UAPS)** family planning and sexual and reproductive Panel (<https://uaps-uepa.org/current-panels/family-planning-srhr/>) (2022-2024)
     2. **Nominated candidate for the African region representative position in** the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) international council (2024)
     3. **Member of the Joint Countdown to 2030** and Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child **Health (PMNCH**) Technical Working Group for the Tracking of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and Domestic Financing for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (WCAH). (2019)
     4. **Member of the Marie Stopes International (MSI) Ethics Review Committee** (2018-now)

(<https://www.msichoices.org/what-we-do/technical-expertise/ethics-review-committee/>**)**

RELEVANT PROJECT EXPERIENCE:

* **26 sub-Saharan African countries:** As one of the technical leads for [Countdown 2030](https://www.countdown2030.org/), Dr. Sidze advises on coverage and equity analyses across 26 African countries. The Countdown to 2030 initiative is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, GFF, and other partners. She has co-authored the forthcoming Countdown to 2030 Lancet report (*Tracking progress in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition: the Countdown to 2030 for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health report*)*,* and is working closely with stakeholders in Cameroon to assess progress in ending preventable maternal and child health deaths and to pilot studies to improve delivery of equitable and quality MNCH care.
* **Kenya:** Dr Sidze led and managed several research and advocacy projects on ending preventable deaths through better understanding of the household dynamics of maternal, newborn and child health as well as social and structural barriers to universal access to quality maternal and child health, focusing particularly on vulnerable populations (i.e. young women, migrant women, urban poor women, and women and children living and arid and semi-arid areas). Major projects she has led/is leading include:
* Examining the complex dynamics influencing persistent acute malnutrition in Turkana and Samburu Counties – A Longitudinal mixed methods study to support community driven activity design (USAID through Mercy Corps and RTI, USD 2.9 Million, Role: PI).
* Baseline evaluation of World Food Programme activities for food security among vulnerable populations in refugee camps and semi-arid areas in Kenya (World Food Programme through United Nations University, USD 182,000, Role: PI).
* Enhancing UHC in Kenya through digital innovations: A Financial and Health Diaries evaluation study of the mobile health wallet (Joep Lange Institute and PharmAccess Foundation, Euros 399,265, Role: PI).
* Assessing RMNCH services access and rights among migrants and mobile populations in East and Southern Africa: In-depth analysis of policies, needs, barriers and rights to services (International Organization for Migration, USD 250,000, Role: PI).
* Evaluating the impact and cost-effectiveness of the free primary care and free maternity care programs in Kenya (The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research – WOTRO, Euros 300,000, Role: PI).
* Qualitative study on economic, social, and health benefits of social protection programmes in Kenya (with focus on maternal and child health protection programs) (UNICEF through University of Maastricht, USD 45,000, Role: PI).
* Analysis of resources flows for reproductive health in sub-Saharan African countries (UNFPA through NIDI, USD 300,000, Role: PI).
* **Kenya, Senegal, Sierra Leone:** **Dr Sidze’s work has contributed to advance knowledge on the drivers of perinatal mental health in resources constraints settings and potential solutions for implementing a holistic care approach to women and children health. Major projects she has led/is leading include:**
* Kinship, Nuptiality and Child health Outcomes in a Low-Income Urban Area (NHI-funded through University of Maryland, USD 1.06 Million, Role: co-PI).
* Catalyze mental health, Senegal and Sierra Leone (Grand Challenges Canada, USD 400,000, Role: co-PI)
* Sasa Mama Teen Project: Strong Minds for Stronger Adolescent Mothers in Nairobi Slums (Grand Challenges Explorations, USD 100,000, Role: PI).

selected publications

1. Gómez-Pérez, G. P., de Groot, R., Abajobir, A. A., Wainaina, C. W., de Wit, T. F. R., **Sidze, E.,** ... & Janssens, W. (2023). Reduced incidence of respiratory, gastrointestinal and malaria infections among children during the COVID-19 pandemic in Western Kenya: An analysis of facility-based and weekly diaries data. Journal of global health, 13.
2. Sandie, A. B., Mutua, M. K., **Sidze, E.,** Nyakangi, V., Wanjoya, A., Nlend, A. E. N., & Faye, C. (2023). Epidemiology of emergency and elective caesarean section and its association with early neonatal mortality in sub-Saharan African countries. BMJ open, 13(10), e074995.
3. de Groot, R., Abajobir, A., Wainaina, C., **Sidze, E. M.,** Pradhan, M., & Janssens, W. (2023). The impact of digital health insurance for low-income women in Kenya. medRxiv, 2023-07.
4. **Sidze, E. M.,** Wekesah, F. M., Kisia, L., & Abajobir, A. (2022). Inequalities in access and utilization of maternal, newborn and child health services in sub-Saharan Africa: A special focus on urban settings. Maternal and Child Health Journal, 1-30.
5. Wong, K. L., Banke-Thomas, A., Sholkamy, H., Dennis, M. L., Pembe, A. B., Birabwa, C., ... **Sidze, E. M.,** & Beňová, L. (2022). A tale of 22 cities: utilisation patterns and content of maternal care in large African cities. BMJ Global Health, 7(3), e007803.
6. Faye, C. M., Wehrmeister, F. C., Melesse, D. Y., Mutua, M. K. K., Maïga, A., Taylor, C. M., ... **Sidze, E. M.,** & Boerma, T. (2020). Large and persistent subnational inequalities in reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health intervention coverage in sub-Saharan Africa. BMJ Global Health, 5(1), e002232.
7. Wehrmeister, F. C., Faye, C. M., da Silva, I. C. M., Amouzou, A., Ferreira, L. Z., Jiwani, S. S., ... **Sidze, E. M.,** & Boerma, T. (2020). Wealth-related inequalities in the coverage of reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health interventions in 36 countries in the African Region. Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 98(6), 394.
8. **Sidze, E. M.,** Mutua, M. K., & Donfouet, H. P. (2020). Towards achieving equity in utilization of maternal health services in selected sub-Saharan African countries: progress and remaining challenges in priority countries. Women and Sustainable Human Development: Empowering Women in Africa, 111-124.