



IPORA

is an international transdisciplinary research network, created to study the major challenges facing the African continent and to find concrete solutions



Interdisciplinary
Policy-Oriented
Research on Africa



Newsletter #2

February 2026

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EDITORIAL

At the beginning of January, you received the first IPORA newsletter, designed to give an overview of the network and to share news from across our community: field activities, seminars, conferences, training sessions, PhD defenses and publications.

With this second issue, the newsletter now takes its place as a regular monthly communication tool. Its objective is simple but essential: to keep us informed of the many activities that reflect the vitality and diversity of the IPORA network. Through these shared updates, we aim to strengthen connections between teams, disciplines and regions, and to make visible the richness of the work carried out within the network.

This newsletter is also a collective space. We strongly encourage you to share information about your ongoing and upcoming activities. Your contributions are key to ensuring that IPORA remains a living, dynamic platform that reflects the reality of your work in the field, in research and in training.

These information flows also feed IPORA's LinkedIn account, allowing us to relay news beyond the network and to increase the visibility of

our initiatives. The earlier we receive information about forthcoming events, the more effectively we can promote them and reach a wider audience.

We look forward to continuing this exchange with you throughout the year and to building, together, a shared narrative of IPORA's scientific and institutional life.

The IPORA Editorial Team

Upcoming **IPORA General Assembly & Congress**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
March 30 to April 3, 2026

The next IPORA General Assembly will take place in Addis Ababa and will be followed by a three-day scientific conference bringing together partners from across the network. Further details will be shared soon.



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Past

Combined impact of air pollution and extreme heat on the risk of transmission of respiratory diseases in northern Ivory Coast (Korhogo)

Korhogo, Côte d'Ivoire - November 22, 2025

Start of air and weather pollution measures in Korhogo

This transdisciplinary research project examines the joint impact of air pollution and extreme heat on respiratory and cardiovascular diseases

in Korhogo, in the north of Côte d'Ivoire. The methodology is based on the deployment of sensors for fine particles (PM2.5), the analysis of health registers and sociological surveys to assess real exposure and the perception of risks by populations. The final objective is to constitute a scientific database to set up an early warning system and guide sustainable urban development policies in the face of climate challenges.

V Yoboué (UFHB), O Marcy (UB), G Menan (PACCI) and M Doumbia (UFHB/UPGC)





Paper presented titled "Agrarian Modernization and Socio-Ecological Crises". Summer School "Morocco on the Move"

University of Turin - January 12-13, 2026

The Summer School consolidated the interdisciplinary collaboration between the University of Turin and UIR



Upcoming - Field Visits

Combined impact of air pollution and extreme heat on the risk of transmission of respiratory diseases in northern Ivory Coast (Korhogo)

Korhogo, Côte d'Ivoire - March 1st, 2026

Start of sociological and health surveys in March.

It should be noted that this transdisciplinary research project examines the joint impact of air pollution and extreme heat on respiratory and cardiovascular diseases in Korhogo, in the north of Côte d'Ivoire. The methodology is based on the deployment of sensors for fine particles (PM2.5), the analysis of health registers and sociological surveys to assess real exposure and the perception of risks by populations. The final objective is to constitute a scientific database to set up an early warning system and guide sustainable urban development policies in the face of climate challenges.

V Yoboué (UFHB), O Marcy (UB), G Menan (PACCI) and M Doumbia (UFHB/UPGC)



EVENTS

Past Events

Seminar **IPORA Interdisciplinary Seminar** **Virtual - November 27, 2025**

Misrak Getnet, a PhD student from Addis Ababa University School of Public Health, presented a study examining socioeconomic inequality in the effective coverage of modern contraceptive use in Ethiopia using Performance Monitoring for Action (PMA) 2023 data. She argued that traditional contraceptive coverage indicators fail to capture quality of care, and emphasized the importance of effective coverage, which integrates service use with quality elements measured through the Method Information Index (information on alternative methods, side effects, and management of side effects).

The second presenter, Habtu Dessalegn, a PhD candidate in Political Science at Addis Ababa University, examined the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and its implications for regional energy integration and geopolitical equilibrium in Northeast Africa. He argued that large hydraulic projects are not only development tools but also strategic instruments used by states to advance regional integration, reshape power relations, and counter existing hydro-hegemonies.

Conference

French Nutrition Days

Centre des congrès Lyon - December 10, 2025

French Nutrition Society

Presentation of research results on an IPORA initiation project entitled "Nutritional transition and overweight in urban areas: an analysis of risky behaviors"





Seminar

2nd Stakeholder meeting of the Add-in Ethiopia project Addis Ababa University - December 12, 2025

The workshop brought together representatives of ministries, research, private sector, international agencies and civil society that took part in the Kick-off workshop 8 months ago. Several lines of research and results were presented for feedback and interactions, along with workplan for the coming 6 months which will be then presented in a follow-up workshop.

Conference

Kick-off: SAMMANUT project UFHB, Abidjan - December 18, 2025 Thierry ZOUE (Supervisor)

Kick-off of the project related to maternal mental health and child nutrition. Two years project (2025-2027) funded by FONSTI with IPORA as Partner



Scientific days
Scientific Days PACCI / PRISME-CI
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire - February 2-3, 2026

Happy birthday PACCI! 🎉

In 2026, the PACCI programme celebrates 30 years of scientific commitment to health research in Côte d'Ivoire and beyond. Since 1996, PACCI has been a key player in research, training and responses to major public health challenges, within strong and lasting Franco-Ivorian partnerships.

The scientific days of the PACCI / PRISME-CI programme were held on 2 and 3 February 2026 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, under the theme "30 years of health research: achievements, innovations and perspectives."

The event also marked the 30th anniversary of the PACCI programme.

Across two days, the programme featured a rich scientific agenda, including:

- plenary sessions on HIV, non-communicable diseases, viral hepatitis, emerging infectious diseases, ageing and tuberculosis;
- discussions on equitable research partnerships and research funding;
- roundtables on integration of research into policy;
- a symposium on data protection and regulatory aspects of health research in sub-Saharan Africa.

On the sidelines of the conference, the Minister of Health, Public Hygiene and Universal Health Coverage, **Pierre Demba**, met with PACCI programme leaders and their French partners, highlighting the strong interest and support of health authorities for this major scientific initiative.





Upcoming Events

Round Table and Masterclass **ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHES AND ECOLOGICAL CHALLENGES** **HYBRID - FEBREARY 13, 2026**

The Center for Global Studies (UIR), CRESC (Rabat), the Centre Jacques Berque, and the Institut Français de Rabat, in partnership with the Center for International Studies at Sciences Po (CERI), invite you to the fourth roundtable of the series "Social Sciences in Action," supported by the IPORA project.

Taking place on Friday, February 13, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the International University of Rabat, the roundtable will address "*Environmental Catastrophes and Ecological Challenges*," exploring how social sciences analyze the political, social, and territorial dimensions of environmental disasters.

A Masterclass on the same topic, open to PhD students, will be held the same day from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Center for Global Studies.

Both events can also be attended online via this link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/3518840577617?p=CW8nIJLhYqUdqxcRyU>



PUBLICATIONS

The Future in Mind: Aspirations and Long-term Outcomes in Rural Ethiopia

Tanguy Bernard, Stefan Dercon, Kate Orkin, Giulio Schinaia and Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse

January 2026

Aspirations may condition the future-oriented choices of individuals and thus may play a role in the persistence of poverty or the effort to break out of it. We run a randomised control trial in remote, rural Ethiopia to explore this and evaluate an intervention which aims to change how poor people perceive their future opportunities, alter their aspirations and, through that, modify their investment decisions. A treatment group was shown video documentaries featuring individuals from similar communities who escaped poverty through their own

efforts and serve as relatable role models. Five years after the screening took place, the treated households had increased future-oriented investments in agriculture, children's education and assets. The results can be explained by an increase in aspirations in terms of lifetime goals. Overall, this research uniquely provides evidence that a light-touch behavioural intervention can have persistent economic impacts on a poor population.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjag002>

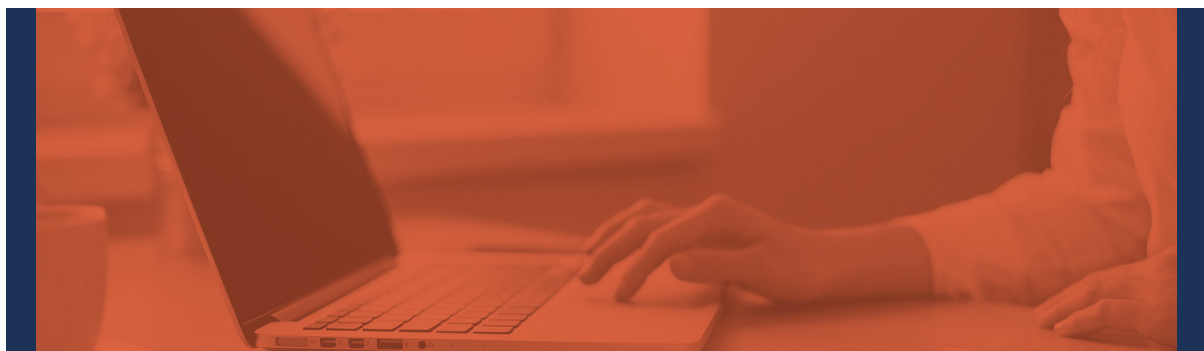
Accepted manuscript

Feasibility and results of joint ambulatory monitoring of exposure to particulate matter pollution and lung function in children in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, a cross-sectional observational study

Pajot A, Yapo M, Liousse C, Doumbia M, Gnamien S, Ahoua S, Dje S, Dick Amon Tanoh F, Fayon M, Yoboue V, Marcy O

January 2026

The article was accepted for publication in *BMJ Open* on 27 January 2026 and is currently awaiting an official publication date. It is the second PhD paper by Auriane Pajot, based on the APIMAMA KIDS study.



PROJECT FUNDING

Submitted project proposal

Feasibility, acceptability and effectiveness of ultraviolet irradiation to reduce neonatal mortality in Côte d'Ivoire (UVCI)

Project focus

This interdisciplinary project aims to assess the feasibility, acceptability and clinical effectiveness of upper-room ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) to reduce respiratory infections and mortality among newborns in neonatal care units in Côte d'Ivoire. The project combines a quasi-experimental clinical study with socio-anthropological and health economic evaluations.

Project leads and IPORA team members

The project is co-led by Madeleine Amorissani-Folquet (CHU de Cocody, Abidjan) and Emilie Gadea (CH Émile Roux, France), with strong involvement of IPORA partner teams, including PACCI Abidjan, GHIGS (Université de Bordeaux), Bordeaux School of Economics, Institut Pasteur de Côte d'Ivoire, and Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny

Planned duration

36 months (implementation envisaged from 2026)

Project accepted for funding

SOLAMIXIS Cote d'Ivoire

This project was recently accepted for funding by the French Plant Science PEPR managed by the National Research Agency. It brings together researchers in plant science (CIRAD), Law (UGA) and Economics (BxSE and INRAE) to develop new apomictic rice varieties allowing rice farmers to maintain high quality seeds seasons after seasons. The project will further investigate Ivorian rice farmers' likely uptake their decision to invest in improved seeds when exposed to these new varieties, through dedicated field work in collaboration with AfricaRice.



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For any questions regarding the newsletter
and how to share your information, please write to:
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