



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 #6

June 2026

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EDITORIAL

Dear members of the IPORA network,

This June issue highlights the continued momentum of IPORA activities across research, training and scientific exchange.

From field-based research in Côte d'Ivoire to dissemination workshops, methodological innovation, and new opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, the contributions featured in this newsletter reflect the diversity and vitality of the network.

In this issue, you will find updates on ongoing research projects, including UJALA, SPIA and a research film on informality in Abidjan, as well as information on the upcoming IPORA Summer School 2026 and new opportunities for interdisciplinary research and collaboration across the network.

We wish you an enjoyable reading.

The IPORA Editorial Team



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Past Events

UJALA Phase 1: Results Dissemination Workshop

June 3 - Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

On Wednesday, 3 June 2026, the University of Félix Houphouët-Boigny hosted a workshop dedicated to the UJALA project, titled *"Improving Access to Markets and Local Services: Assessing the Impact of the OCP School Lab (OSL) and Village Input Fairs (VIF) in Côte d'Ivoire."* The event provided an opportunity to present the preliminary findings of the baseline survey, gather feedback from field stakeholders, and engage decision-makers to foster ownership of the results.

More information on [UJALA Phase 1](#)





Producing a Research Film on Informality in Abidjan's Automotive Repair Garages

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

As part of the **Social Equity and Informality** research stream, a team of filmmakers trained in the social sciences is working alongside researchers to produce a research film. This collaboration is grounded in a methodological approach based on the principle of triangulation in data collection and analysis.

Through a sensitive and immersive lens, the film takes viewers to Dokui-Olympe, an area located beneath high-voltage power lines. These lands, now managed by an electricity company and deemed unsuitable for urban development within the expanding metropolis of Abidjan, have become a refuge for people displaced by the city's rapid growth. Amid makeshift neighborhoods of wood and corrugated iron inhabited by migrants, itinerant mechanics are striving to formalize their economic activities.

Following an initial phase of filming, identifying participants, and building trust with those featured in the film, the team is currently preparing the editing of the first footage around a reflective voice-over narrative. The film's storytelling is still evolving, continuously shaped and reshaped through experimentation to find the most appropriate form within the triangulated relationship among the participants, the filmmaking team, the researchers, and future audiences.



SPIA Project - Côte D'Ivoire

SPIA Phase 1: Results Dissemination Workshop

June 9, 2026

On Tuesday, 9 June 2026, the SPIA Côte d'Ivoire Phase 1 Results Dissemination Workshop was held at Hôtel Le Capitol in Abidjan. The main objective of the event was to present the findings from Phase 1 and to jointly plan the activities for Phase 2 in consultation with key stakeholders.

The workshop brought together around forty participants, including representatives from government and national institutions, agricultural support organizations, universities and research centers, CGIAR centers, international partners, agricultural associations, NGOs, IPORA Côte d'Ivoire, the CAPEC research team, and private sector stakeholders.

Following the opening remarks, the workshop was organized into three sessions:

- **Stocktaking status and presentation of the stocktaking tool.**
- **Presentation of the stakeholder network.**
- **Presentation of the DIIVA methodology and the Food Security Atlas to guide the next steps.**

Each session was followed by highly productive discussions, which contributed to the collaborative planning of Phase 2 activities.



Webinar

Expanding Access to HIV Treatment for Children And Adolescents in Africa

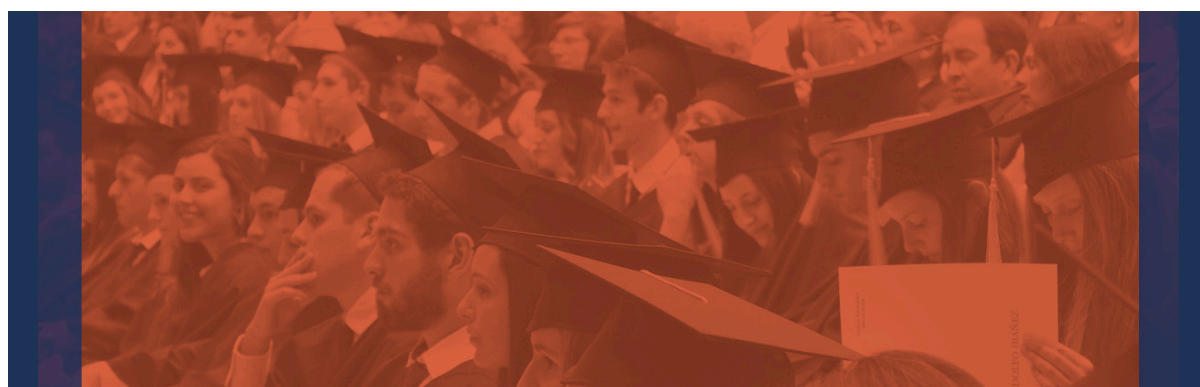
June 19, 2026

On 19 June 2026, IPORA hosted a webinar featuring **Dr Chishala Chabala**, Lecturer and Consultant Paediatrician at the University of Zambia (UNZA) School of Medicine and the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka, and a member of the IPORA network. During the webinar, Dr Chabala delivered a presentation entitled **“Expanding Access to HIV Treatment for Children and Adolescents: Progress and Persistent Challenges.”**

The seminar highlighted the significant progress achieved in improving access to paediatric HIV treatment while also addressing the persistent challenges related to HIV testing, treatment coverage, and viral suppression among children and adolescents, particularly in Africa. The discussion provided valuable insights into current efforts and underscored the need for continued action to ensure equitable access to HIV services for young populations.

The event brought together researchers and practitioners from across the network, fostering an engaging exchange of knowledge and experiences on advancing paediatric HIV care.

[Watch the webinar recording](#)



Courses

Summer School **IPORA SUMMER SCHOOL 2026** **July 15 to 17, 2026 - Hybrid Format** **Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire**

Following the call for applications, the selection of participants for the in-person workshops has now been completed.

Dedicated to methodological approaches at the intersection of interdisciplinary research, the Summer School will combine theoretical contributions, practical workshops, interdisciplinary exchanges and group work.

Details :

- 15–17 July 2026
- Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
- Hybrid format: in-person & online
- Language: French / English
- In-person workshops: selected participants

- Online participation: registration via form
- Updated programme available on the IPORA website

The Summer School is open to Master's students, PhD candidates, postdoctoral researchers, early-career academics, teacher-researchers and professionals interested in interdisciplinary approaches applied to development challenges, public policy and social transformations in Africa.

[View the event and programme](#)



Training Opportunities

ENLIGHT Training Opportunities

The ENLIGHT programme is a European cooperation initiative in education and research, focused on key societal challenges including health and well-being, digital transformation, climate change, energy and circularity, social inequalities, and culture and creativity.

The alliance aims to develop innovative educational and research models and methodologies tailored to the complex sustainability challenges facing cities and communities today, with a particular emphasis on Africa. Its partner institutions include the Universities of Bordeaux (France), Ghent (Belgium), Göttingen (Germany), Tartu (Estonia), the Basque Country (Spain), Galway (Ireland), Groningen (the Netherlands), Uppsala (Sweden), Comenius Bratislava (Slovakia), and Bern (Switzerland). The University of Bordeaux contributes to this initiative through members of IPORA within **Work Package 4 (WP4)** and the **GP Africa network**.

A range of training opportunities is offered by the various partner universities for Master's and PhD students.

[Download the document](#)

Student Testimonials

Participation in the MIT DEDP MicroMasters Program

Silver Kossonou

Silver Kossonou is a biologist by training, specializing in food safety and agri-food biotechnology. He is currently participating in the MIT MicroMasters Program in Development Economics and Design Policy (DEDP), with a focus on international development.



This program, subsidized at 90% through the support of Prof. Tanguy Bernard, who is affiliated with J-PAL, provides an excellent opportunity for Silver to deepen his expertise in policy evaluation, strengthen his analytical and research skills, and expand his professional network within the international development community.

Silver describes the program as an outstanding learning experience and is delighted to be part of it, gaining new knowledge and insights that will contribute to his professional and academic growth.

Dula Dinku

My personal assessment of the courses and overall program is very positive. I like the depth of teaching, diversity of contents and clarity of the course delivery. Moreover, I believe the contents are so rich, both intensive and extensive, easing my transition into the economics field.



Besides, the lectures are supported with real world and practical project experiences which helped me to better understand how the learning outcomes can be applicable to address real challenges associated with poverty. The assignments, homework and exercises are fairly challenging enough, but manageable, to test my understanding of courses, and to inspire me to push personal boundaries. Dula Dinku



Research Excellence

Claire Gondard Awarded Research Leave to Advance the SoJust Project

Claire Gondard has been awarded a **CRCT (Research or Thematic Conversion Leave)** to strengthen the interdisciplinary and collaborative work required to develop the **SoJust (Social Justice and Climate Change): The Living Lab Project on Social Protection in the Context of Climate Change in Africa**.

The CRCT scheme enables academic staff to benefit from a period free from teaching and administrative responsibilities in order to initiate, deepen, or finalize research projects. Thanks to this research leave, Claire Gondard will undertake several visits to IPORA's African branches and to Madagascar between February and July 2027.

The SoJust project—a Living Lab on Social Protection in the Context of Climate Change in Africa—addresses a pressing challenge: how to advance social justice in the face of environmental challenges across the continent.

Social protection is a cross-cutting instrument for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It serves as an explicit or implicit means of attaining several objectives, both social—such as **SDG 1 (No Poverty)**, **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)**, **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**, and **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**—and environmental, including **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)** and **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**.

To help design social protection policies capable of addressing these challenges, the Living Lab project seeks to produce interdisciplinary, policy-oriented research through North–South partnerships.

From a scientific perspective, the project is structured around two key questions:

- **What forms of social protection are best suited to the social and environmental specificities of African countries?**
- **How can social protection contribute to development pathways that are both socially just and environmentally sustainable?**

From the perspective of linking research with action, the Living Lab will bring together academic and socio-economic institutions, from both the public and private sectors, to foster dialogue between science and society.

Ultimately, the Living Lab aims to contribute to rethinking social justice in the context of the environmental challenges facing Africa.



Call For Projects and Other Funding Opportunities

Horizon Europe has launched Africa Initiative IV under its 2026–2027 work programme, with around 30 calls for proposals

dedicated to EU–Africa research and innovation cooperation. The initiative supports collaborative projects involving African and European partners across four priority areas: public health, green transition, innovation and technology, and capacities for science. The full list of calls, together with an explanation of Africa Initiative IV, is available here:

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african-union-au/horizon-europe-launches-africa-initiative-iv-under-2026-2027-work-programme_en?s=43



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

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