

Urban Family Planning Panel and Fellows' meeting in Madeira

Funchal, Madeira, Portugal, 12-15 July 2022

Organized by the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Family Planning, Fertility and Urban Development, as part of the 3-Panel Mini-Conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.

Report

The IUSSP Panel on Family Planning, Fertility and Urban Development was represented by nine members of the scientific advisory panel and six of the 14 research Fellows, with additional participation on Zoom. Participation of both Fellows and Panel members from the global South was limited due to challenges in people obtaining Schengen visas. Fellows were given the opportunity to present their ideas for future research which were discussed by the panel and were encouraged to attend sessions of the other two panels. On day one, panel members reviewed the progress made to date on:

- the fellows' research studies, that have already resulted in 15 peer-reviewed publications with many more to come;
- the two "synthesis publications" about the program, one in a [general development journal](#) and the other in an [urban-focused journal](#);
- on the policy engagement objectives of the program (including both the training of fellows done by African Population Health Research Center (APHRC), and the collaboration with The Challenge Initiative (TCI) on [presenting two panels at the Africities Summit in May 2022 in Kisumu Kenya](#).

The Panel also discussed possible future directions for the work, with the idea of applying similar approaches to new substantive topics. Learning from the experience to date, it was considered desirable to promote more leadership by partner agencies in the global South while still taking full advantage of the cross-regional and scientific value that IUSSP can add to an international, scientific effort.

The panel organized a plenary on day 2 called "Introducing a new type of IUSSP Panel." Presentations were made by the Panel co-chairs John Cleland and Trudy Harpham, by the Project Coordinator Judith Helzner, and by three Fellows as "case studies" to illustrate the concepts with real life experiences. The audience endorsed the program's efforts at capacity building, especially in making research policy-relevant; and appreciated the challenge of building bridges between two very different sectors, family planning and urban development.