

# Editorial

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Professor Mulugeta F. Dinbabo

Editor-in-Chief, African Human Mobility Review (AHMR)

University of the Western Cape

Email: editor@sihma.org.za

We are pleased to announce the publication of the African Human Mobility Review (AHMR), Volume 11, Number 3, December 2025. This issue presents up-to-date, high-quality, and original scholarship, including a book review and several articles that explore diverse dimensions of human mobility across Africa. We extend our sincere appreciation to all contributors, authors, the editorial board, the publisher, and the anonymous reviewers, whose support has been vital to the journal's development. This issue features six articles and a book review, each offering original research and policy-focused insights and collectively providing a robust platform for examining contemporary trends, migration dynamics, and key migration-related issues across Africa.

The first article by Edmond Agyeman, Joseph Kofi Teye, and Joseph Yaro is entitled "Rural-Urban Migration and Translocal Livelihoods in West Africa: Review of Literature." Using a review of the literature, the study explores migration and translocal livelihoods across the West African subregion. Translocal livelihoods refer to the networks of connections and interdependencies linking mobile and non-mobile populations. The paper concentrates on interactions between rural and urban populations and employs a non-systematic literature review approach. The findings suggest that migrant groups in urban areas — such as hometown associations, religious organizations, pressure groups, and social clubs, play key roles in driving development within their communities of origin. Some of these urban-based groups also possess significant political influence, shaping political activities, electoral processes, and voting behavior in rural areas. The study concludes that understanding the policy implications of their actions is therefore essential.

The second article by Rachel Chinyakata, Cletus Mulu Momasoh, Glynis Clacherty, and Filippo Ferraro is entitled "Gaps in the Implementation of the Non-*Prima Facie* Refugee Status Determination in Uganda." The study adopted a qualitative research design and engaged key informants from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society or community-based organizations (CBOs), government departments, and international institutions that work directly with refugees. The findings show that Uganda's Refugee Status Determination (RSD) system is grounded in robust legislation, particularly the Refugees Act of 2006 and its 2010 Regulations. However, notable implementation gaps and barriers persist, including limited awareness, insufficient legal advice, and inadequate support for asylum seekers, alongside broader systemic and logistical challenges that restrict access to asylum.

The paper argues that closing these gaps requires a comprehensive, multi-pronged strategy. It demonstrates that diverse forms of intervention are necessary to ensure that the non-*prima facie* asylum system aligns with Uganda's legal framework as well as international human rights standards and best practices.

The third article by Paddington Mutekwe and Kenny Chiwarawara is entitled "Necropolitics and Slow Violence: Revisiting Migrants' Access to Healthcare During the COVID-19 Pandemic in South Africa." Methodologically, this study is grounded in qualitative research, drawing on data collected through in-depth interviews and document analysis in South Africa. Participants included local leaders of civil society organizations (CSOs) as well as foreign nationals from countries such as Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Cameroon, and Kenya. The findings reveal that although the government introduced several interventions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 across different population groups, foreign nationals struggled to access these measures. While administrative difficulties in registration may partly explain this exclusion, stronger evidence suggests that the relief efforts were fundamentally flawed in design, having overlooked some of the most vulnerable members of society. The study concludes that the government should provide greater financial support to these organizations and collaborate more closely with them to ensure the needs of all residents in South Africa are effectively addressed.

The fourth article by Yvonne Zama Sibaya is entitled "The Middling Citizenship Trap: Belonging Denied Through Neoliberal Exclusionary Inclusion in South Africa." This ethnographic study applies a critical citizenship framework to examine "middling citizenship," a concept describing the liminal space between legal inclusion and sociocultural exclusion, among 26 highly skilled naturalized immigrants in neoliberal South Africa. The research highlights the varied ways participants experience both acceptance and marginalization, demonstrating that national citizenship — though sought after — does not necessarily translate into full integration. The study exposes the neoliberal paradox of middling citizenship and the contradictions of the post-apartheid context: while the Rainbow Nation narrative promotes colorblind unity, it continues to reproduce colonial racial hierarchies in practice. The findings reveal that merit-based citizenship fosters conditional belonging by valuing economic contribution over sociocultural acceptance. The paper argues that postcolonial perspectives are essential for recognizing forms of genuine belonging that extend beyond economic legitimacy in transitional democracies.

The fifth article by Charity Mawire is entitled "Intersectionality of Gender, Culture, and Identity in Migrant Women's Integration in Africa." Methodologically, this study draws on secondary data, including reports, policy documents, books, journal articles, and other relevant sources. It examines how the integration of women in host communities is shaped by the complex interplay of gender, cultural norms, and identity. The findings show that overlapping challenges related to gender expectations, cultural practices, and identity heighten migrant women's vulnerability and complicate their integration trajectories. Nevertheless, despite these challenges,

migrant women demonstrate agency by creating opportunities for integration through community-led initiatives. These insights underscore the need for a gender-sensitive approach in designing and strengthening migrant integration frameworks, policies, and strategies to address the specific experiences of migrant women across the African continent.

The sixth article by Chalachew Desta, Gülcan Akkaya, and Samuel Alemu is entitled “Urban Refugee Protection and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in Ethiopia: Challenges and Missing Links.” This study draws on secondary data analysis, key informant interviews, and in-depth interviews. It fills existing knowledge gaps by providing a comprehensive assessment of Ethiopia’s urban refugee protection system, integrating policy and legal frameworks with empirical evidence from urban contexts. The findings indicate that while there have been partial achievements in economic inclusion, education, healthcare, documentation, and social participation, significant structural, administrative, and legal obstacles continue to limit refugees’ access to livelihoods, housing, essential services, and social networks. Social capital plays a crucial role in helping refugees navigate these barriers, yet inequalities in documentation, language proficiency, and market access heighten their vulnerability. The study concludes that Ethiopia’s urban refugee protection framework contains notable implementation gaps that hinder progress toward SDG-related outcomes and underscores the need for coordinated, inclusive, and context-specific policies that convert formal rights into genuine capabilities and equitable opportunities for integration.

This issue also consists of a Book Review made by Ayodeji Adesanya on a book entitled *African Perspectives on South–South Migration (1st ed.)* edited by Meron Zeleke and Lahra Smith. The reviewer offers a thorough and scholarly assessment of the book, noting that it presents a compelling perspective on a range of issues. The contributors draw on extensive experience and years of research to analyze migration as a multidimensional phenomenon shaped by history, geography, gender, knowledge networks, and resource flows. The edited volume not only challenges dominant Eurocentric frameworks but also provides a richly contextualized and grounded contribution to mobility theory in the African context. The reviewer concludes that this book is a significant addition to the literature on borders. Organized into various chapters, it effectively balances theory and empirical evidence through case studies that illuminate the lived experiences and structural conditions of African migrants moving not toward the Global North, but within the continent across the Global South.

Through effective academic writing and presentation, strong organization, and rigorous critical argumentation, the authors have produced exceptional research. I am confident that this edition of *African Human Mobility Review* once again offers a valuable resource for scholars, practitioners, and students.