



**African Population and
Health Research Center**
Transforming lives in Africa through research.

Official Tribute from APHRC's Executive Director to the Family of Roland Mesmer Gouda Mady

On behalf of the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) community, I extend our deepest condolences to the family of Roland Mesmer Gouda Mady.

Roland was a valued member of the Countdown to 2030 Initiative team, a role he played with enthusiasm, dedication, and patience. The Countdown to 2030, has supported teams across more than 34 African countries, helping them analyze and use data to track progress in life-saving interventions for women and children. He brought quiet intellectual rigor to his work, patiently working with various scientists from across Africa to build their confidence and skills as they made sense of mountains of data from their countries.

At APHRC, we knew Roland for his generosity in sharing his insights and expertise. We remember his open-mindedness, humility, and commitment to mentorship. He always created spaces for others to learn and grow.

Last year, ahead of the initiative's Annual Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, Roland spent an entire week mentoring fellows in the Countdown Fellowship Program. He supported them in analyzing their data, making sense of the data and in translating their findings into formats that can be easily shared with decision makers in their respective countries. He was selfless with his knowledge and willingly shared his expertise.

Roland was also known for his warmth, humility, and remarkable ability to connect with people. His conversations were both intellectually stimulating and deeply human. He listened attentively, making others feel seen, heard, and valued. He respected diverse perspectives and helped build bridges across ideas, disciplines, and people with ease and grace.

He will be dearly missed by the team he worked with, and the countless people he mentored and inspired.

On behalf of APHRC and the Countdown to 2030 Initiative, I extend heartfelt sympathy to Roland's family, friends, and colleagues at this difficult time. We pray that you all find comfort. We pray that God brings you light in the hours of darkness. We pray that Roland's memory will be a blessing to you.

May Roland's soul find eternal rest.

Dr. Catherine Kyobutungi
Executive Director, APHRC
and
Co-Investigator, Countdown to 2030 Initiative.