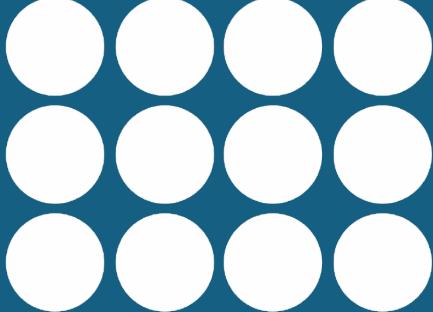


PanAfrican Medical Journal



PAMJ ANNUAL REPORT: 2025 SUMMARY

By the PAMJ Editorial Office, Nairobi (Dec 2025) – Data as of 27 Dec 2025 | <https://one.manuscript-hut.com>

The PAMJ is an international NGO accredited by the Kenya NGO Council and the Cameroon Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Executive summary

Based on the PAMJ Annual Report 2025, the Pan African Medical Journal experienced significant growth and solidification of its role as a key global platform for African biomedical research. Submissions surged by 10.85% to over 3,600 manuscripts from 105 countries, with strong readership and engagement metrics. While maintaining high editorial standards with a 10.7% portfolio-wide acceptance rate, the journal faces operational challenges, including a wide variability in time-to-publication and a concentrated peer-reviewer's pool. For 2026, PAMJ plans to address these issues by optimizing editorial workflows, expanding its global network of associate editors, and enhancing the author's experience to manage its growth and amplify its scientific impact.

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PAMJ 2025 Annual Report

The **Pan African Medical Journal (PAMJ)** is an open-access, peer-reviewed journal dedicated to creating a platform for African researchers to share their work with the global scientific community. Established in 2008, it has grown into a leading biomedical publisher, indexed in PubMed, Scopus, and Google Scholar, with a focus on populations in Africa and beyond.

1. Editorial performance and metrics (2025)

In 2025, the PAMJ portfolio (including PAMJ, PAMJ-Clinical Medicine, PAMJ-One Health, and PHCP) processed a total of **3,607 submissions**. The editorial process remains highly selective to ensure the highest scientific standards.

a. Manuscript outcomes

The following table breaks down the output of the flagship journal and its specialized titles:

Journal	Submitted	Published (Accepted)	Rejected	Acceptance Rate	Rejection Rate
PAMJ (Flagship)	3,179	300	975	9.44%	30.67%
PAMJ-Clinical Medicine	200	39	90	19.50%	45.00%
PAMJ-One Health	172	34	29	19.77%	16.86%
PHCP	56	14	5	25.00%	8.93%
Total Portfolio	3,607	387	1,099	10.73%	30.47%

Acceptance Rate: The percentage of manuscripts published relative to the total number submitted. Rejection Rate: The percentage of manuscripts rejected relative to the total number submitted. *Remaining manuscripts (approx. 58.8%) are currently in the peer-review or revision phases.*

The main PAMJ journal, which handles the vast majority of submissions, has an acceptance rate below 10%. The difference in rejection rates suggests potential variations in editorial workflow or manuscript screening processes between journals.

b. Diversity of manuscript categories

In 2025, PAMJ continued to attract a wide range of scientific contributions, with Original Research remaining the cornerstone of the journal's output, accounting for 1,444 submissions. This was followed by a strong volume of Case Reports (753) and Images in Clinical Medicine (504), which play a vital role in documenting unique clinical observations across the continent. The diversity of categories including Case Series, Reviews, and specialized Supplements, reflects the journal's commitment to providing a comprehensive platform for all forms of biomedical knowledge.

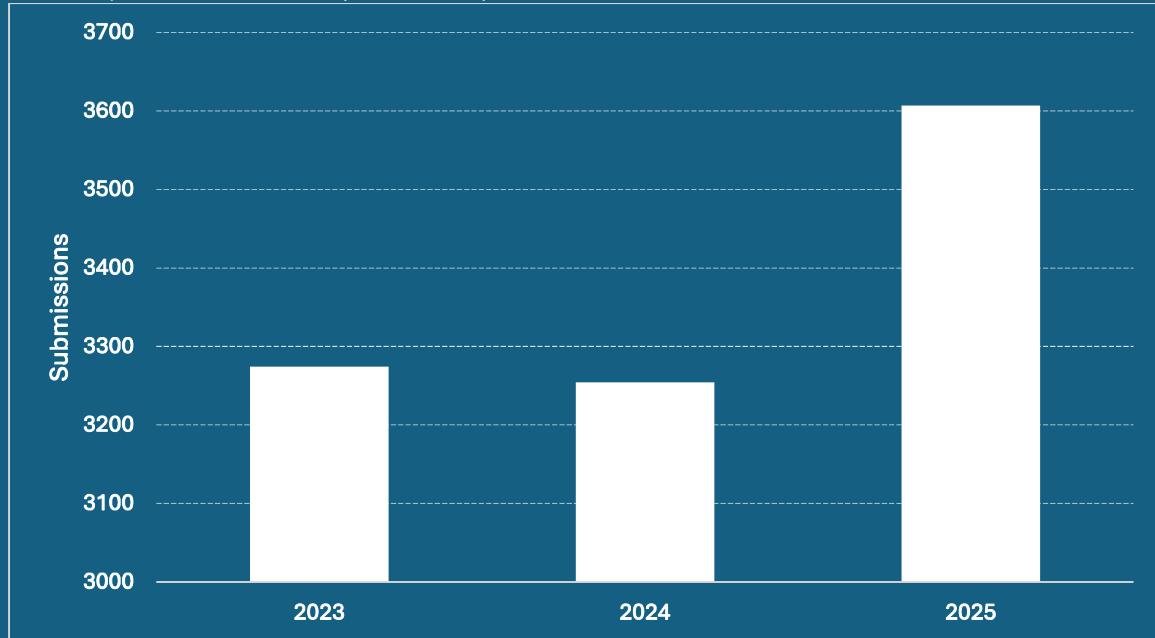
c. Linguistic diversity of submissions

As a journal deeply rooted in the multilingual landscape of Africa, PAMJ maintains its dual-language submission policy. In 2025, the majority of manuscripts were submitted in English (3,131 submissions, representing 86.8%), reinforcing the journal's position in the global scientific dialogue. However, the journal remains a critical outlet for the Francophone scientific community, with 476 submissions (13.2%) received in French, ensuring that language does not remain a barrier to the dissemination of high-quality African research.

d. Longitudinal trends (2023–2025)

Analysis of the last three years indicates a significant surge in interest and trust in the PAMJ platform.

Manuscript submission trends (2023 – 2025)



- **2023:** 3,274 Submissions
- **2024:** 3,254 Submissions (-0.6% change)
- **2025:** 3,607 Submissions (+10.85% growth)

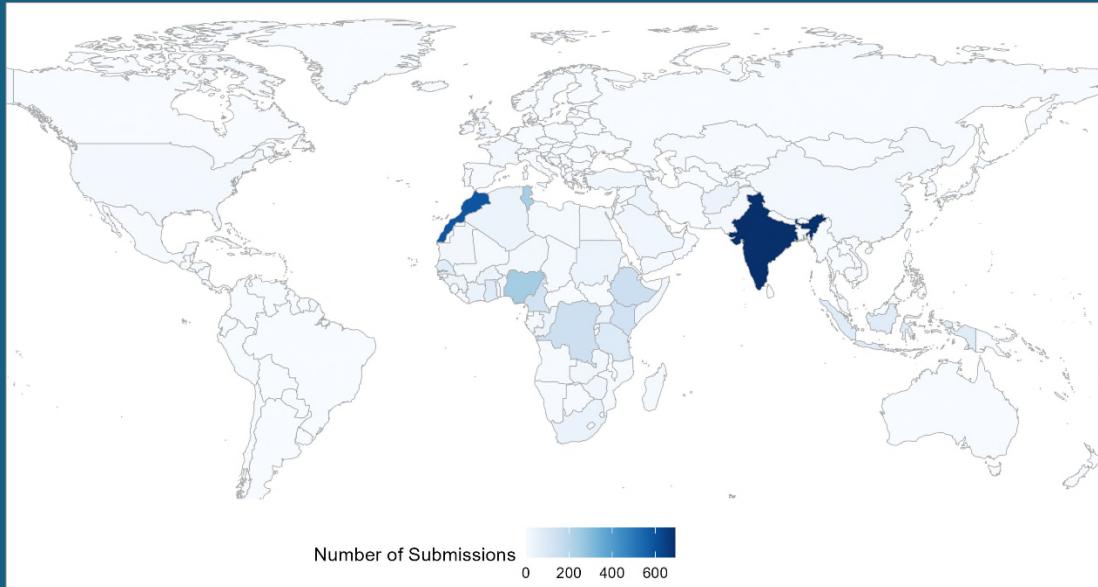
The 10.85% increase in 2025 represents a strong recovery and expansion phase compared to the stable baseline seen in previous years.

2. Geographic distribution

PAMJ continues to be a global hub. In 2025, contributions came from 105 countries across six continents. The most active contributing nations in 2025 were:

Strong Pan-African Core: African nations dominate the top of the list, with North African (Morocco, Tunisia) and major sub-Saharan countries (Nigeria, Ethiopia, DRC) leading in volume. **India** is the single largest contributing country, submitting nearly twice as many manuscripts as the second-place country. This underscores PAMJ's vital role as a publication channel for a major global research community. Contributions from the US, European nations, and across Asia demonstrate PAMJ's widening international appeal and relevance beyond the African continent.

Submission by country (See Annex for details)



3. Submission activity over time, in 2025

Monthly submission rates remained almost stable throughout 2025, averaging roughly **300 manuscripts per month**. Peak Month: October (387 submissions), Lowest Month: February (263 submissions).



4. Processing efficiency

Utilizing the *PAMJ Workflow* platform, the journal maintains a competitive publication speed:

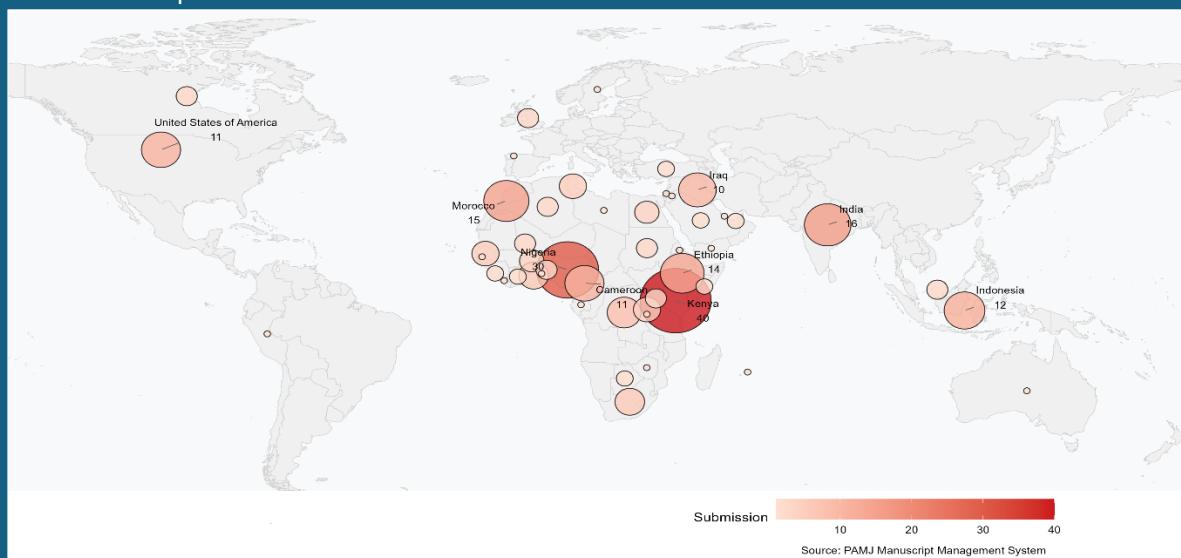
- **Median Time to Publication: 83 days**
- **Average Time to Publication: 104 days**
- **Range 2 – 353 days**

While the average publication time is just under four months, the median of 95 days is more representative, indicating that half of all published manuscripts are processed within about three months. The wide range highlights variability, with some manuscripts undergoing extensive review and revision.

5. PAMJ external peer reviewers

Based on the 2025 reviewer dataset, the external peer review process at PAMJ is supported by a global network consisting of close to 300 reviewers, though with notable geographical concentration. **Kenya** and **Nigeria** are the most significant contributors, providing 40 and 30 reviews respectively, which together account for over one-third of the total reviewer submissions from the top ten countries. Reviewers from **India** (16), **Morocco** (15), and **Ethiopia** (14) also form a substantial part of the core reviewing body. While the dataset shows participation from 52 countries across six continents, including the **United States** (11), **Indonesia** (12), and several **European nations**, the distribution is uneven. A long tail of 37 countries contributed between just 1 to 3 reviews each, indicating that while the journal benefits from broad international participation, the bulk of the peer review workload is handled by a smaller group of active countries, predominantly in Africa. This pattern mirrors the journal's submission geography but suggests potential for expanding and diversifying the reviewer pool to distribute the workload more evenly and incorporate wider perspectives. This will be our priority for 2026.

PAMJ external peer-reviewers



6. Site monthly statistics & access (Google analytics)

The digital presence of PAMJ remains robust, with high user engagement across the globe. On average, for each month of 2025:

- Active Users: 44,000
- New Users: 43,000
- Total Page Views (Main Journal): 111,000
- Average Engagement Time: 3 minute 00 seconds.
- Traffic Sources:
 - Direct: 21,000 (Strongest channel, indicating returning users)
 - Google Organic Search: 18,000
 - Bing Organic: 1,800

These statistics do not include access from other sources.

7. Conclusion

The 2025 data confirm a period of significant growth for the Pan African Medical Journal (PAMJ). With over 3,600 submissions in 2025, PAMJ has solidified its role as a vital instrument for disseminating high-quality biomedical research from Africa to the global scientific community. This expansion, however, presents challenges that we are proactively addressing. The current wide range in time-to-publication (2-353 days) is suboptimal for author experience. Similarly, the prevailing ~10% acceptance rate reflects not only rigorous editorial standards but also systemic pressures from processing a large volume of submissions. For 2026, we are implementing targeted strategies to enhance efficiency without compromising scientific integrity. Our action plan includes:

- Continuous process optimization: Conducting editorial workflow audits to identify and eliminate bottlenecks, establishing clearer and more consistent publication timelines.
- Capacity expansion: Appointing over 100 volunteer associate editors across six continents to bolster our peer review and manuscript management capabilities.
- Improving author's experience: with a stable and user-friendly manuscript management platform and with implementation of more structured feedback mechanisms to improve transparency, expedite processes, and support the research community.

By tackling these operational challenges, PAMJ will manage its growth, improve service to authors, and amplify its impact as a leading African open-access publisher.