

#### Who We Are

The Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) is Uganda's leading think tank in economic research and development policy. We provide policy analysis to support the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of government policies. EPRC has also broadened its scope and repositioned itself to respond to emerging development issues beyond Uganda through evidence based research.

#### **Mandate and Role**

EPRC is an autonomous not-for-profit organisation limited by guarantee. The Centre was established in 1993 to fill the void in economics research, policy analysis, and capacity building for effective in-country contributions to Uganda's policy formulation process.

Since its inception, EPRC has grown into a credible and reputable policy think tank. It prides in a high quality evidence based research, strong policy engagement with government MDAs and convening power to bring together a diversity of stakeholders to deliberate on topical development issues affecting Uganda's development.

EPRC's mandate is to develop and implement a responsive research agenda that facilitates the achievement of the long-term goals of Government of Uganda, as well as the expectations of development partners, among others.

### **Organizational Values**

The conduct of EPRC's business is anchored on the following core values:



**Excellence:** We are dedicated to excellence in everything we do through attention to detail, quality assurance, timeliness and commitment.



Independence: We believe in the independence of mind in the conduct of research and other obligations of the Centre as stipulated in our mandate.



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**Sensitivity:** We endeavor to continually understand and respond to the legitimate interests and concerns of our stakeholders as the basis for maintaining mutually beneficial and respectable relations.





**Efficiency:** We avoid resource wastage in doing our work. We focus on achieving maximum desired results, with minimal resource input.





**Respect:** We believe everyone at EPRC matters. We recognize diversity and respect one another, value divergent opinions and ideals, and empower each other to voice their views as part of our work ethic.





Integrity: We are honest, open and adhere to moral and ethical principles as we serve the needs of our stakeholders. We are cognizant of the consequences of our actions and decisions.





**Engagement:** We pay attention to constructive engagements, partnerships and collaboration while maintaining individual accountability.





### **Vision**

A Centre of excellence, providing national leadership in intellectual economic policy discourse, through timely research-based contribution to policy processes.

### Mission

To foster sustainable growth and development of the Ugandan economy by advancing the role of research in policy processes.

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Strengthening and Diversifying the EPRC Resource Base





### Dear Stakeholder,

I am pleased to present to you the Economic Policy Research Centre's annual report 2021/22. This was particularly an important period for the Centre as it had to steer through the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, it was a year that we are transitioning to the new five-year strategic plan 2022/23 – 2026/27.

While the COVID-19 risks are behind us, the year under review started when the country was in total lockdown, facing the harshest spell of the pandemic-induced deaths and business uncertainty. The Centre was not fully open for physical work and interaction until October 2021.

However, even in this tricky period, the Centre's research focused on providing in-depth analysis of how COVID-19 was impacting Ugandan businesses, economy and society. A Rapid Survey of the COVID-19 Lockdown Effects on MSMEs and Households was carried out, and the results were disseminated in July 2021.

This particularly shed light on the depth of the dent that lockdowns were having on MSMEs. It also put a torch on government interventions like cash handouts to vulnerable groups on whether the right people were targeted or received the intended support. The survey results greatly informed the government's decision to relax lockdown in the subsequent months.

Our research theme for the FY 2021/2022
was "Supporting Uganda's Economic
Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic",
a continuation of the previous year's,
which had sought to build resilience
and support the Ugandan economy's
recovery.

In line with this theme, a number of studies focusing on the

macro, sectoral, micro, and trade related aspects of COVID-19 were conducted to provide evidence to support government's decisionmaking. The most important was the nationwide survey on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs. The results were disseminated in June 2022. The study showed that nearly half a million Ugandans lost jobs permanently in just four sectors — hospitality and tourism. agribusiness, manufacturing, and education. The survey, which forms a panel of the three-year study under the IDRC-COVID-19: Responses for Equity (CORE) Initiative, looks ahead on what government should do for the jobs lost and enterprises closed for good.

The year also saw our relationship with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED) grow even stronger. At the request of the PSST/MoFPED, EPRC produced a briefing note on *Budget Reprioritisation in Uganda: Key Issues for 2022/2023 and beyond*. The study recommended areas where budget reprioritisation is required in seven sectors, i.e., agriculture, health, education, trade and industry, social development, works and energy.

#### **Convening Power**

The Centre's annual flagship publication-the Agricultural Finance Yearbook (AFYB), was produced in collaboration with Agricultural Finance Initiative (aBi). Under the theme of "Agricultural Finance: Coping with Economic Recovery Amidst a COVID-19 Environment", the 2021 yearbook was launched in April 2022 at a ceremony presided over by the Minister of State for Finance Mr. Henry Musasizi.

### Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation

The adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic on research operations meant that 2021/22 was tough year although the Centre's finances were able to support it and continue as a going concern. This was thanks to Government of Uganda but also partnerships that supported our resource base. We continued strong research partnerships with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) through a new project examining public debt on Uganda during COVID-19 and the continuation of the other projects like one examining the shifting gender norms and unpaid care work.

On the new strategic plan for 2022/23-2026/27, we aim to

strengthen stakeholder engagement, governance structures and systems across the board to develop a research agenda necessary for sustainable growth and market leadership position in the evidence-based economic research in Uganda, the region and Africa at large.

The EPRC research agenda is aligned with Uganda's long-term development strategy — the Vision 2040 - which is implemented through five-year national development plans. The Centre has noted the growing pressure to improve economic development outcomes without leaving anyone behind as well as balancing between the immediate interventions, especially to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

Emerging risks including wars in Europe, the climate change crisis, and the Greatlakes geopolitics impact on the Ugandan economy will form a bigger of the Centre's work going forward. Government and non-state actors would require timely evidence to guide their actions amidst changing environment at different levels to ensure Uganda registers socio-economic transformation.

Sarah N. Ssewanyana, PhD

Executive Director





Mr. Ramathan Ggoobi
Permanent Secretary/
Secretary to Treasury,
Ministry of Finance,
Planning and Economic
Development (Chairperson)



Dr. Jacob Opolot
Economic Advisor to the
Governor, Bank of Uganda
(Ex-officio member
representing Governor, BOU)



Ms. Judith Namugenyi General Manager Internal Audit & Forensics, MTN Uganda (Non- ex- officio member)



Ms. Ednah Kanabahita Chief Risk Officer, ABSA Bank (U) Ltd Non- ex- officio member



Prof. William Bazeyo
Deputy Vice Chancellor for
Finance & Administration,
Makerere University
(Vice Chairperson)- July to
Dec 2021



Mr. Arthur Isiko Managing Director, Bank of Africa Non- ex- officio member



Prof. Henry Alinaitwe
Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor for
Finance & Administration,
Makerere University
(Vice Chairperson) MarchJune 2022



Prof. Stephen K.
Nkundabanyanga
Head of Accounting
Department, Makerere
University Business School
Non- ex-officio member



Dr. Fred P. Ssengooba Principal, School of Public Health, Makerere University Non — ex- officio member







### Research Staff

Dr. Sarah N. Ssewanyana (PhD) **Executive Director** 



Dr. Ibrahim Kasirye (PhD) **Director Research Head Research Function** 



Mr. Paul Corti Lakuma **Research Fellow** 



Macroeconomics

Dr. Brian Sserunjogi (PhD) **Research Fellow** 



Mr. Ambrose Ogwang **Young Professional** 



Ms. Rehema Kahunde **Research Analyst** 



Mr. Nathan Sunday **Research Analyst** 



Mr. Denis Maya Volunteer Research Associate

Dr. Swaibu Mbowa (PhD) Senior Research Fellow



Dr. Mildred Barungi (PhD) Senior Research Fellow



Dr. Francis Mwesigye (PhD) Senior Research Fellow



Dr. Umar Kabanda Volunteer Research Associate



Ms. Sawuya Nakijoba **Volunteer Research Associate** 



Mr. Tony Odokonyero Research Analyst



Ms. Florence Nakazi Research Analyst



Ms. Mary Kajumba Volunteer Research Associate



### Research Staff

#### Trade and Regional Integration



Dr. Isaac Shinyekwa (PhD) Senior Research Fellow



Ms. Aida Nattabi Kibirige Research Analyst



Ms. Justine Luwedde Research Analyst



Mr. Enock Bulime Nsubuga Young Professional

#### Microeconomics



**Dr. Madina Guloba (PhD)**Senior Research Fellow



Mr. Regean Mugume Research Analyst



Mr. Medard Kit Kakuru Research Analyst



Mr. Dablin Mpuuga Volunteer Research Associate



**Dr. Linda Nakato** Volunteer Research Associate



Mr. Smartson Ainomugisha Volunteer Research Associate



Ms. Blessing Atwine Research Analyst





### Administrative and Support Staff

#### **Finance**



Ms. Mary Tusaba Kivunike Director Finance & Shared Services



Ms. Betty Kuteesa Nalule Senior Accountant



Mr. Denis Arop Nono Accountant



Ms. Vanice Nuwagaba
Procurement Officer



Ms. Caroline Nyakaisiki Executive Assistant

#### Information Management & Dissemination



Ms. Elizabeth Birabwa Aliro Programmes Manager



Mr. Alon Mwesigwa Communication Officer



Mr. Damson Atwesigye Knowledge Management Officer



Mr. Amos Musoke ICT Officer



Ms. Precious Ekinamushabire ICT Assistant

#### **Human Resource and Administration**



Ms. Fatumah Namubiru Human Resource & Administration Manager



Ms. Claire Biira Bahati Administrative Officer



Ms. Aminah Balunywa Front Desk Officer



Sam Lakwonyera Transport Officer



Mr. Deo Barugahare



Mr. Godson Busengendo Transport Officer



Mr. Tonny Stephen Mayanja Transport Officer



Mr. Robert Muzaaya Office Attendant



Mr. Lawrence Luzze
Office Attendant



Ms. Joan Nampindi Office Attendant







In line with its strategic objective of offering responsive evidence-based research through proactive engagement with stakeholders, the Centre's research focused on providing an in-depth analysis of the economic consequences of the Russia-Ukraine war and the COVID-19 pandemic on Ugandan businesses, the economy and society. The research also focused on stimulating the economy and employment to prevent the collapse of economic activity. The research theme for the FY 2021/2022 was "Supporting Uganda's Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic". This section provides the status of the implementation of research activities undertaken from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. It is organised along the three key research-related focus areas in the EPRC's Strategic Plan -2017/18-20/2020/21.

# Evidence based quality research delivered to respective users

The research undertaken under this focus area is initiated by EPRC researchers and/ or in collaboration with its strategic partners. This research also includes works to feed into the Centre's flagship publications, The Ugandan Economy Today, Business Climate Index and Agriculture Finance Year Book. The following are highlights of the studies accomplished under this focus area during the review period:



#### Mitigating the Socio-economic Impacts of COVID-19 and Promoting Post-Pandemic Resilience in Uganda

As a response to the COVID pandemic effects. EPRC is implementing a 3-years project on "Mitigating Socio-Economic impacts of COVID-19 and Promoting Post-Pandemic Resilience in Uganda". The project supported by (IDRC) has been running since September 2020. It follows a panel of MSME's for three vears to monitor and evaluate the business dynamics and the extent to which the policy responses are hindering or supporting recovery and resilience. In the FY 2021/22 an abridged report on the "Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Business Enterprises in Uganda: Evidence from Micro, Small And Medium-Sized Enterprises" was

produced based on a Rapid

Assessment Survey of the COVID-19 Lockdown Effects on MSMEs and Households conducted in the previous reporting period. The report analysed

COVID-19 effects on enterprise operations and performance, business recovery, effects on employment in the MSME sector, and business enterprise resilience. Some of the policy recommendations in the report are addressing the cost of doing business during economic shocks; strengthening structures for better organization and coordination of MSMEs; genderresponsive social protection policy responses to support job and income security of women and youth; targeting support interventions towards business survival; building business resilience by improving adaptive ability: leveraging knowledge and information.

## Effect of COVID-19 Induced School Closures on Education at Regional Levels

In collaboration with the Pardee Center for International Futures, EPRC completed a Policy Note analyzing how the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are likely to be felt across the country's development systems over the coming decades. The Policy Note titled "Potential Long-term Effects of COVID-19 on Economic and Human Development in Uganda", explores the short and long term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the













Ugandan economy and possibilities for accelerating recovery and progress. The brief also investigated the transformative effect of a policy push towards sustainable development goals agenda.

#### **How Specific Resilience Pillars** Mitigate the Impact of Drought on Food Security: Evidence from Uganda

This research paper generated under the USAID-funded Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI) studied household resilience capacities with a special focus on how different resilience capacities mitigate the impact of drought on food security. The study followed the TANGO framework and two-step factor analysis to construct resilience capacity indexes. The study showed that building resilience capacities effectively protected households from such devastating situations. In this regard, adaptive capacity was found to be the most effective in mitigating the effect of drought on food security. Transformative capacity and absorptive capacities possessed limited mitigating



power. The study recommended investing in early warning systems and wide dissemination of climate-related information to enhance preparedness adaptation, encouraging and supporting the formation and sustainability of informal institutions at local levels. It also called for enhancing access to communal resources, improved infrastructure and agriculture extension services by the most vulnerable groups.

#### **Nationwide Study on Uganda's Sugarcane Sub-Sector**



In collaboration with Michigan State University (MSU) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), an in-depth nationwide study of Uganda's sugarcane sub-sector was conducted to investigate how current institutional arrangements enhance or hinder cane growers' productivity, profitability, and food security. The study conducted under the auspices of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, Capacity and Influence (PRCI) Programme, aimed to generate evidence that would inform policy makers and stakeholders on how to operationalize policies, regulatory frameworks and direct investments

for sustainable development of the sugarcane sub-sector. It was carried out in December 2021 in 12 districts within Bunyoro, Busoga, and Buganda regions. A series of targeted meetings were held with policy makers and technocrats to share the preliminary study findings and enlist their buy-in and input to the study. By the end of the reporting period a draft report had been prepared.

#### **Does Uganda have the Necessary Manufacturing Standards** Framework to Pursue the NDP III's Import Substitution Strategy?

This study assessed Uganda's legal, regulatory and institutional standards framework in pursuit of the third National Development Plan's import replacement/export promotion strategies. The focus was on the status of Uganda's legal, regulatory and institutional standards framework. The results showed that despite efforts to create the legal. regulatory and institutional framework for standards, several challenges still exist in the implementation that need to be addressed to achieve the







strategy's objectives. These include; outdated laws, corruption, inadequate funding to the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), and the lack of awareness about standards among stakeholders. The study recommended that there is a need to regularly evaluate laws, regulations, and policies related to standards to address gaps in their implementation. It also emphasises the importance of understanding what the manufacturers/ traders need and how they can be supported to adhere to standards.

#### Potential Products for Uganda's Export Expansion and Diversification



This research paper set out to identify the potential sectors and products required for Uganda's export intensification and diversification using the Hausmann Atlas of Economic Complexity and the International Trade Centre's Export Potential Assessment approaches. Overall, the results suggested that Uganda has a comparative advantage for export intensification and diversification in the agricultural, minerals, light

manufacturing and textile sectors, but it was exploiting only 62 percent of its potential export market. To tap the 38 percent unutilised export market the government needs to enhance the export competitiveness of Uganda's agricultural, mineral. light manufacturing and textile products, by improving the economic infrastructure (energy, transport and e-commerce) and addressing institutional inefficiencies (bureaucracy and corruption). In addition, the productive, marketing and exporting capacities of current and prospective exporters need to be built to tap into the regional markets. The government also needs to provide adequate and timely information regarding the available export diversification and intensification opportunities in Uganda's key trading partners. Lastly, tapping into export markets also requires strengthening the existing institutional framework for export promotion to ensure that critical stakeholders are wellcoordinated and have a shared vision.

#### Enhancing Ugandan Coffee Sector by Expanding Consumption: Historical Contributions to Policymaking



This project implemented in partnership with the universities of Glasgow and Hertfordshire investigated the constraints faced in increasing domestic coffee consumption in Uganda, given that it is one of the countries where traditionally consumption levels have been low. The study produced policy-orientated recommendations to leverage Uganda's position within the global coffee economy. These included a deeper understanding of the behaviours and cultures that have shaped beverage preferences and revisiting the policies regulating the price of locally manufactured coffee to ensure that Uganda coffee products compete against imported products. These associations between coffee production, heritage and identity, and the persistence of historical market structures were captured in a video documentary titled "Understanding Uganda's Domestic Coffee Consumption" posted on the Centre's Youtube and the African Coffee Histories platforms that share ideas about the history and culture of coffee in Africa.

#### The Potential Trade Effects of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Joining the EAC Bloc

The Summit of East African Community (EAC) Heads of State at their 19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Summit held on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 admitted DRC as its 7<sup>th</sup> Partner State. The major reasons advanced for DRC's joining of the bloc were increased Intra-EAC trade and reduction of tension amongst the EAC Partner States. This study thus explored the trade effects of DRC's membership in the EAC trade bloc. Specifically, using the SMART-WITS Model simulation















approach the study analysed the likely trade creation and diversion accrued to the EAC partner states and the sectors poised to benefit as a result of this trade liberalisation. The results revealed that trade effects were positive among the EAC partner states, more so for Rwanda and Uganda, given that they were the current leading EAC exporters to DRC. Specifically, DRC's membership to the EAC increased Rwanda exports by USD 81 million, Uganda's (USD 60 million), Tanzania (USD 50 million), Kenya (USD 42 million) and Burundi (USD 6 million), Tanzania (USD 50 million), Kenya (USD 42.5 million) and Burundi (USD 6 million). The positive trade effects were attributed to trade creation (due to new exports by EAC to DRC initially sourced from non-EAC countries) rather than trade diversion. In terms of trade growth shares, free trade with DRC will increase the current trade with Uganda by 30 percent, 24 percent for Rwanda, 34 percent for Tanzania, 29 percent for Kenya and 33 percent for Burundi. The main economic sectors/industries poised to benefit from DRC membership were agroprocessing, metal products (mainly iron and steel) and mineral ores industries.

#### **Research on Improving Systems** of Education (RISE) Diagnostic in Uganda

The RISE Programme is a global



research endeavour that seeks to understand how education systems in developing countries can overcome the learning crisis, where children spend years in school without gaining foundational skills. The multi-country research programme is funded by the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. EPRC is using the RISE diagnostic framework, to facilitate and support Government actors in selecting high-level strategic reform priorities to improve learning based on the latest education systems research. Under the programme, EPRC is also diagnosing the components of the education system that are not working together to deliver learning. The project commenced in October 2021 and wound up in October 2022. During the reporting period, a stakeholder and network analysis was conducted to identify the key actors in the primary education system and their

relationships. The exercise helped to understand the system's incoherences and identify priorities for reform. It also served as a guide in developing and refining the research tools for the different project components and identified participants.

#### From Promises to Actions: **Shifting Gender Norms and Public Perceptions about Unpaid Care Work in Workplaces and Families** in Uganda

This is a three-year study implemented by EPRC in collaboration with Makerere University School of Women and Gender Studies and Care International Uganda. The study is intended to push for recognition, redistribution, reduction and representation of unpaid care work (UCW). It is being implemented Under the Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) East Africa. jointly funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Hewlett foundation. During the period under review, a stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted, a report was produced; a formative qualitative study and a baseline study covering qualitative and quantitative aspects of gender and social norms for unpaid care and domestic work were conducted, and two draft papers were prepared.





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#### Improving Diets for Better Health: Developing Effective Regulatory Interventions for Healthier Food Environments in Uganda

This three-year research project aims at; (i) assessing gaps in public food policies and government actions and identifying barriers and facilitators to their implementation; (ii) estimating the economic burden of a selected Nutrition-Related Non-Communicable Disease; and (iii) assessing the legal and administrative feasibility of adopting and implementing contextspecific interventions. The project is implemented jointly with the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) based in Kenva with support from the GLOBAL RECAP programme of the International Development Research Center (IDRC). Two papers were drafted in the reporting period, and a report titled "Evidence Pack for food environment policies in Uganda (2020-2021): A desk review was published. The first draft paper is titled: "Healthy Food Environment Policy Index (Food-EPI) Country scorecard and prioritization recommendations for action in Uganda," and the



second "Political and legal feasibility of adopting RECAP interventions of restrictions on marketing unhealthy foods and beverages to children, simplified nutrition labelling, and taxation of sugar-sweetened beverages." Both papers are undergoing peer review.

# Green Curses and Violent Conflicts: The Security Implications of Renewable Energy Sector Development in Africa



This three-year project implemented in collaboration with the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO) examines the conditions under which increased investment in renewable energy could generate a new set of resource- and energy-related conflicts in Africa – a so-called "green curse" - and how to prevent and resolve these conflicts. In the period under review, the Centre conducted site identification and mobilization visits to the hosting and affected communities of Karuma Hydropower Project and Isimba hydropower project in January 2022, to identify upstream and downstream communities surrounding the two

hydropower projects and their local council representatives to act as mobilizers for the subsequent indepth fieldwork. Subsequently, a nine-day field work comprising focus group discussions and key informant interviews was conducted to capture information on pathways and conflict triggers in renewable energy developments and mechanisms required to prevent renewable energyrelated conflicts was collected through a nine-workday fieldwork. Thematic analysis following the project objectives was used to analyze the information collected from the field and a report produced and shared with the project partners. In total, 19 FGDs were conducted with varying numbers of respondents and six KIIs. A report was produced.

### Monitoring Uganda's Business Climate

EPRC continued to monitor and capture Ugandan business managers' perceptions of the current and near-future (expected three months ahead) business indicators to determine their role in economic developments and the business environment in Uganda. The











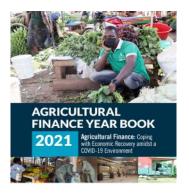
results were packaged into quarterly publications- Business Climate Indexes were useful in providing policy makers both in Government and in the Private Sector with insights about the general direction of the cyclical developments and information about future business expectations. Six quarterly BCI issues were published, with Issue No 33 produced in August 2021. Issue number 34 - a special issue on (*The effects*) of COVID-19 lockdowns on Ugandan businesses: A comparison of the 2020 and the 2021 lockdowns). Issue No 35 produced in November 2021, Issue 36 produced in February 2022, Issue 37 produced in March 2022 and Issue 38 produced in June 2022.

#### The Ugandan Economy Today



The "Ugandan Economy Today" a quarterly review of the economic performance of Uganda, was also systematically produced in the period under review. The publication presents a trend analysis of selected key indicators in the economy's agricultural, industrial, transport and communication sectors. It also highlights trends in major price indices such as inflation. exchange, and interest rates. The policy section reviews monetary and fiscal policy stances as well as international trade developments. During the FY 2021/22, three issues were produced: Issue 10: July-September 202, Issue 11: October-December 2021 and Issue 12: January-March 2022.

#### **Agricultural Finance Yearbook** 2021



Since 2014 EPRC has been responsible for overseeing technical content and production of the Agricultural Finance Yearbook. The annual publication is designed to communicate policy messages on emerging agricultural finance issues, innovations in deepening agricultural finance, and tracking investments in the agricultural value chain to policymakers and stakeholders in a concise form. The 2021 edition titled, Agricultural Finance: Coping with Economic Recovery Amidst a COVID-19 Environment, was produced in collaboration with members of the Agricultural Finance platform and with funding from the aBi Finance Limited and the MoFPED. This edition highlights key processes, achievements, challenges and gaps in policy, financial institutions operations, innovations and digitalisation, financing of agricultural value chains, and financing COVID-19 response and resilience building in Uganda. It also presents some agricultural production models that make financing smallholders and agricultural SMEs less risky and more rewarding to financial institutions. Copies of all editions since 2014 are freely downloadable in pdf format from www.eprcug.org.



EPRC team with Bank of Uganda Deputy Governor Dr. Michaal Atingi-Ego at a factory at Kakira Sugar Works. Photo/EPRC





### **Research Studies Responding to Priority Needs of Major Stakeholders**

The research conducted under this category is requested for and funded by particular clients but is in line with the Centre's research agenda and medium strategic plan priorities. During the financial year 2021/22, through its Directorate of Research, the Centre continued to receive requests for new studies from various government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), as well as development partners and nonstate actors. Most of the requests related to implicationsof COVID-19 on the Ugandan economy and others focused on the ripple effects of the Russia-Ukraine war on Uganda's economy. A short description of these studies is provided as follows:



#### **Budget Reprioritisation in Uganda**



At the request of the MoFPED, the Centre conducted a study to critically analyse the key allocative and technical efficiency outputs that contributed to governments budget reprioritisation amidst increased fiscal pressure caused by a sudden drop in revenues from the economic slowdown and new expenditure pressures associated with COVID-19 impacts. Uganda's budget authority had reprioritised the budget towards 7 sectors, i.e., agriculture, health, education, trade and industry, social development, works and energy. The intention was to stay focused on the government's objective of increasing household and firm production and

productivity, providing jobs, reducing the health impacts of coronavirus. supporting poverty reduction efforts, promoting exports and enhancing economic growth. Covering the period 2016/17 to 2020/21, the study revealed that; despite having high allocative efficiency in a majority of the proposed reprioritisation sectors, there was much variation in budget funds and their utilisation. This was mainly due to: (i) mismatch between the policy objectives and budgets reflected in the discrepancy between capital expenditure (CAPEX) allocations, (ii) duplication of budget outputs which reduced flexibility and accountability and increased monitoring costs, (III) variations in utilisation of domestic. relative to the external development financing, (IV) budgeting was still based on the output/institution-based system with limited linkages between budget allocations and programme priorities. The study generally recommended halting of new road construction in the short term to allow for rechannelling of available funds to other urgent and critical areas.

#### **Drivers of Changes in Uganda's Fuel Pump Prices During the COVID-19 Crisis**



At the request of the MoFPED, EPRC analysed how local price increases were synchronous with regional and international prices following the global surge in oil prices experienced in the first half of 2021 and peaked in October and November 2021. The study established that international fuel price (crude oil) emerged as the most significant driver of Uganda's fuel pump price, comprising 40% of the pump price, followed by tax (31%) and distribution and marketing costs as well as retail dealer profit margin (29%). In addition, fuel shortages, exacerbated











by a weak fuel reserve capacity, contributed to the skyrocketing fuel price. The tendency of an oligopolistic cartel-like structure of the petroleum market also seemed to amplify the fuel price crisis. In the medium term, the study recommended aligning fuel taxes with the inflation target; regulating price and costs related to distribution and margin, implementing tax measures alongside regulatory measures and establishing a fuel stabilisation fund or subsidy to mitigate the effects of the international price crisis. Other proposals were building an effective fuel reserve system (with higher capacity) and setting up an autonomous public agency to regulate and manage reserve measures and price stabilisation during fuel crises.

#### Surge In Uganda's Laundry Soap and Cooking Oil Prices in 2021/22



This is another of the quick assessments conducted at the request of MoFPED. The study sought to establish why the retail prices of laundry soap and cooking oil had escalated faster than the prices for most commodities, especially between January and February 2022. During this period, the national average retail price for laundry bar soap rose by 22 percent, from UGX 4,257 in January to UGX 5,213 per kg in February 2022. Except for

sugar, the other essential commodities mainly depended on imported inputswhose prices had increased drastically since July 2021 due to international and domestic factors. Fyidence revealed that between July 2021 and February 2022, the contribution of the global price of CPO in the final retail price drastically increased to 63 percent from 57 percent registered in the first half of 2021 (January to June 2021). Imposing import duty on CPO in July 2021 also affected the input mix used by manufacturers. To a lesser extent, the gradual rise in international shipping costs and the increase in global fuel prices also contributed to the escalation of soap and cooking oil prices. The study recommended a temporary waiver of the 10 percent import duty and 1.5 percent infrastructure levy on CPO and related product imports to contain the surge in commodity prices in the short term.

#### **Worsening Situation of Sexual and Gender Violence During a Crisis:** A COVID-19 Response Measure in Uganda in Collaboration with MoGLSD

At the request of the MoGLSD. EPRC undertook a study to assess the gendered differences in SGBV experiences and consequences arising from the various measures that were put in place to control the spread of Covid 19. The study showed that the number of SGBV cases reported at various service facilities increased irrespective of the lockdown period. As expected, it was more challenging for service providers to reach out to communities, especially with specialised services such as family

planning, ARVs, legal assistance, and management of rape. However, the study revealed that different service provider used different communication interventions most of which were in eixtsence prior COVID-19 such as, radio talks shows, toll free lines. virtual counselling, and community leaders to reach out to people with SGBV prevention and response services. There was reported use of virtual counselling methods as an alternative to the inperson sessions. The study recomemded among others. prioritisation of resource allocation to emergence SGBV response teams in communities: in terms of transport (motorcycles), fuel and airtime: adoption of multiple sensitisation methods to convey information and empowerement of local leaders/ structures at different levels to handle SGBV cases.

**Foreign Direct and Public Private Partnership Investments** for Inclusive and Sustainable **Reconstruction of Uganda Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic** 



This paper generated with support from the African Development Bank (AfDB) unveils the challenges and the opportunities of Public and Private Partnership (PPPs) as a vehicle to attract FDI to contribute to a more



inclusive and sustainable recovery of Uganda in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. Utilizing, largely, a qualitative methodological approach, the paper reveals that PPPs have not yet been fully utilised in attracting FDI as a strategy amidst the diminishing foreign direct investors' interest due to challenges presented by COVID-19. The challenges are mainly as a result of first absence of a vibrant private sector to absorb the FDI. Secondly, the government has inadequate capacity for deep evaluation of possible PPPs to attract FDI. Thirdly, mistrust between the private and the public sector. Fourthly, lack of regulatory compliance and lastly, among many other, lack of local participation. The policy recommendations advanced for PPP strategy refresh to attract FDI are; deepen Uganda's private sector to attract quality FDI and PPPs; introduction of the competition law to drive fairness, deepen local

participation and de-risk agriculture to ensure inclusivity.

#### Commodity-Specific Priority Investments in Selected Districts of Uganda



In December 2021 EPRC entered a partnership with FAO to document the transformation journey in Uganda's agriculture sector and to identify critical commodity-specific investment gaps and opportunities for five priority commodity value chains in selected districts of Uganda.

These included goats, maize, millet, cassava and coffee. These included: Millet (Soroti district), maize (Serere district), cassava (Lira district), goats (Kibale district), and coffee (Masaka district). The study revealed that several reforms implemented in the sector in the past 30 years, made a significant contribution to the reduction in income headcount poverty. Still, the reforms did not result in a significant transformation: the agricultural sector did not release labour to industry and services, the adoption rates of nationally released varieties remained extremely low. The sector recorded modest economic and food growth rates. In terms of priority investment rankings by the farmers; seed/breed, extension services and fertilizers emerged the top three most pressing investment gaps to agricultural transformation, although individual commodities exhibited slightly different rankings.



A community meeting in Karuma as members narrated their experiences with the hydropower project to EPRC team. Photo/EPRC





ne of the Centre's strategic objectives is closing the skills gaps for state and non-state actors in up-taking evidence for better development outcomes. This is done through training sessions and/or policy advice through the representation on various sectoral and technical working groups. In the following sections, a description of the major attainments and notable contributions is provided.



#### **Training of EPRC stakeholders**

#### Capacity building in Subnational Development and Forecasting in Uganda

EPRC is collaborating with the Pardee Center for International Futures to support Ugandan policymakers and development practitioners to understand pressing development trends at a subnational scale. The partnership, funded by the European Commission, seeks to improve foresight capabilities in Uganda and to explore key questions about the future. Under this project EPRC was able to build the capacity of its researchers on forecasting and scenario analysis using the International Futures (IFs) Model through a series of online training sessions held between October 5 and November 23, 2021. Earlier, in September 2021, a three-day training workshop targeting wider academic and government partners was held on the use of the International Futures model with an emphasis on forecasts and scenarios for Uganda. The trainings aimed at ensuring that the forecasts and analysis are accessible and useful to policymakers and practitioners. Additionally, the sessions were used to identify new variables for integration and expansion of the IFs model itself.

EPRC was able to build the capacity of its researchers on forecasting and scenario analysis using the International Futures (IFs) Model through a series of online training sessions

#### Workshop & Training on Regional Development and Long-term Impacts of COVID-19

The four day workshop and training (WT) was jointly organised with the Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network (PEGNet) between 28th-31st, March 2022 at Fairway Hotel, Kampala. The participants who were mainly drawn from the academia, engaged in an insightful, interactive and practical four-day knowledge exchange program, which equipped the participants with the best research tools and practices for development and facilitated critical analysis of Covid 19 impact research findings in Africa. During the workshop, junior researchers were matched with senior researchers from the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW) and partner institutions, who served as discussants for their research and provided feedback on the papers submitted through small groups. The participants were required to submit a draft paper prior to the workshop and the vetting was based on evaluation methodologies used and appropriateness to the impacts of COVID-19.

...equipped the participants with the best research tools and practices for development and facilitated critical analysis of Covid 19 impact research findings in Africa



#### **Capacity Building in Research Communication and Policy Engagement**

Training for Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF) researchers and innovators in effective communication and reporting of research outputs to influence policy. The participants were drawn from the College of Health Sciences (CHS), College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS), School of Law, College of Education and External Studies (CEES), College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS), the College of Computing and Information Sciences (COICS), the School of Laws (SOL) and the Library and Intellectual Property Unit (IPMU). The participants skills were enhanced in communication and stakeholder engagement and public relations for management of multidisciplinary research teams.

communication and stakeholder engagement and public relations for management of multidisciplinary research teams

...participants skills

were enhanced in

#### **Capacity Strengthening for Parliamentarians**

EPRC staff trained members of parliament attached to the Committee on National Economy on issues of debt acquisition, structure, usage and sustainability. Parliamentarians are now able to interogate debt matters professionally with the objective of ensuring transparency and accountability

....trained members of parliament attached to the Committee on National Economy on issues of debt acquisition, structure, usage and sustainability

#### Strengthening the Capacity of MoFPED on Budget Reprioritisation

On the request of the MOFPED, EPRC researchers trained Economists at the ministry on how to conduct the budget reprioritize process to respond to the increased fiscal pressure caused by a sudden drop in revenues from the economic slowdown and new expenditure pressures associated with COVID-19 impacts. The training offered skills on how to analyse key allocative and technical efficiency outputs that contribute to the current government priorities, with special focus on how to link policy to financing, consolidate duplicated outputs, and low absorption capacity of donor financing among others. Consequently, the country has responded by reprioritizing the budget towards 7 sectors, i.e., agriculture, health, education, trade and industry, social development, works and energy. These sectors respond to the government's objective of increasing household and firm production and productivity, providing jobs, reducing the health impacts of coronavirus, supporting poverty reduction efforts, promoting exports and enhancing economic growth.

...offered skills on how to analyse key allocative and technical efficiency outputs that contribute to the current government priorities

#### **Technical Support to Policy Processes**

EPRC staff supported various policy processes during the reporting period to improve policy engagement and to influence change as follows:

#### **Development of the National Employment Strategy**

EPRC supported the MoGLSD to execute several activities geared towards the design and formulation of the National Employment Strategy for Uganda through consultative and inclusive processes with stakeholders at the national and local levels. The specific activities included, conducting of a situation analysis on employment and productivity trends, formulation of the NES governance framework, participation in technical drafting committee (TDC) and National Employment Council Meetings, and facilitation

...provide a framework that will develop, restructure where necessary and appropriate, transform the Ugandan economy into a sustainable, equitable and job-rich economy





of stakeholder consultations that spanned four regions of Uganda to ensure input and ownership of the strategy. The NES will provide a framework that will develop, restructure where necessary and appropriate, transform the Ugandan economy into a sustainable, equitable and job-rich economy, and steer up institutional relations for solutions to unemployment. In addition, EPRC provided input to the MoGLSD in drafting and reviewing of labour migration indicators and suggestions for improving partnerships and synergies for data generation and sharing.

#### **Informing Implementation of NDP III**

A number of EPRC research papers were produced to inform formulation of strategies and guidelines for effective implantation of NDP III. These included: (i) a paper on how to increase Uganda's volume and value of exports by identifying export products and sectors for intensification and diversification, (ii) Assessment of whether Uganda's manufacturing standards framework is sufficient to pursue the NDP III's import substitution strategy?

..a paper on how to increase Uganda's volume and value of exports...

#### **Support to the Accountability Sector**

Through, its membsership on the Accountability Sector Working Group, the Centre produced research a policy paper on strengthening accountability for public service delivery in Uganda. The paper was based on indepth interviews on the key gaps and challenges in Uganda service delivery.

indepth interviews on the key gaps and challenges in Uganda service delivery

#### **Private Sector Development (PSD) Programme Working Group**

The Centre, as a member to the Private Sector Programme Working Group continued to participate and support in the activities of the Group. These included: Validation of the evaluation report of the National Strategy for Private Sector Development 2017/18-2021/22, drafting and validation of the PSD Annual Performance Report, compilation of information on the actual performance of the PSD Programme outcome and output indicators under EPRC jurisdiction, participation in the Enabling Environment TWG held on May 10, 2022, and the Private Sector Organizational and Institutional Capacity (POIC) TWG meeting held on May 17, 2022.

..continued to participate and support in Validation of the evaluation report of the National Strategy for Private Sector Development 2017/18-2021/22

#### **Sustainable Resource Mobilisation Cluster**

During the period covered by this report, EPRC continued to serve as a member of the Sustainable resource mobilization cluster for the MoFPED. The Centre provided technical support by reviewing progress reports and advising on the Public Finance Management reform action. EPRC reviewed the concept notes on the proposal for revenue monitoring by the Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit (BMAU). We also reviewed the Capacity needs for Domestic Resource Mobilization and Debt Sustainability. The Tax education and harmonization of government data was identified as a key priority of Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy (DRMS). In addition, the Centre provided technical input into the "National Public Investment Project Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Manual" for MoFPED.

provided technical support by reviewing progress reports and advising on the Public Finance Management reform action



### **Detailed Matrix on Technical support and Policy Advice to MDAs**

Researcher(s) names	Committee/ Task- force/ Working Group	Purpose/Mandate/Objectives	EPRC's role
Sarah Ssewan- yana	Presidential Economic Council	Dealing with strategic national economic policy development. The President or Vice President chairs it and its membership include government, other players from the private sector, and the Uganda Manufacturers' Association (UMA) and Private Sector Foundation Chairpersons.	- Provision of evidence-based research to inform discussion on strategic national economic policy development.
Sarah Ssewan- yana Swaibu Mbowa, Ibrahim Kasirye, Madina Guloba, Francis Mwesigye	Strategic Economic Policy and Manage- ment (STEPMAN) Forum, Office of the Secretary to the Trea- sury. MoFPED	Technical support to towards Fostering a Sustainable Agro-Industrialisation Agenda in Uganda	<ul> <li>Research and evidence gathering</li> <li>Policy engagement,</li> <li>Report writing</li> <li>Results presentation and dissemination</li> <li>Influencing government policy focus to adopt an industrial approach to agricultural transformation</li> </ul>
Brian Sserunjogi, Florence Nakazi & Mildred Ba- rungi	Agricultural Finance Yearbook 2020 Review Committee and Quality Assurance	To ensure the production of a high- quality Agricultural Finance Yearbook through preliminary reviews of the articles that meet the minimum stan- dards before submission to the editorial team	<ul> <li>Coordination and planning for production of the book</li> <li>Assigning and guiding authors</li> <li>Supervise editing, designing and publishing of the book</li> <li>Launching and dissemination of the book</li> </ul>
Tonny Odok- onyero & Eliza- beth Birabwa	DPI and PSD Pro- gramme Working Group	Mandatory Programme performance reporting for the Private Sector Devel- opment (PSD) and Development Plan Implementation Programme of NDPIII	<ul> <li>Technical support on indicator compilation, and reporting for PSD programme</li> <li>Presentation on "Use of evidence in planning and budgeting - key roles and opportunities for planners".</li> </ul>
Isaac Shinye- kwa, Enoock Bulime and Aida Nattabi	MoTICs- technical Committe on External Trade	Preparation of Uganda's position for the EAC-UK post brexit trade agreement negotiations  Development of import substitution stratey for Uganda	<ul> <li>Provided empirical data evidence on what the EAC should do to get the best out of the negotiations</li> <li>Reviwed the strategy and made suggestions on policy regulatory and adminsitrative areas for improvement towards the implementation of the proposed Import substitution industrialization approach</li> </ul>
Mildred Barungi	Gender Statistics Advisory Group (GSAG)/ UBoS	Guide the Consultant in development of Methodological Guidelines for compila- tion of Citizen Generated Data	<ul> <li>Provided input based on the Consultant's presentation and reviewed the inception report.</li> </ul>









o seize the windows of opportunity for influencing policies and the national development agenda, EPRC invested energies in building relationships and disseminating its research products and services with policymakers, civil society and the media. A wide variety of communications tactics and tools were used to effectively communicate research results and strengthen links with policy actors and the public. The products and results of some of these interventions are discussed in the subsequent sections.



#### Website



The EPRC website remains the main platform for sharing the Centres knowledge products with external stakeholders. Following its redevelopment in March 2021, we have continued to witness exponetial growth in its usage.

#### **Convening Events**

In the FY 2021/2022, the Centre continued to prove its convening power by organising several policy and technical events that attracted policy and decision makers from both state and non-state organisations. Many of our research and knowledge products were disseminated through a wide variety of dissemination formats, ranging from virtual conferences, livestream TV broadcasts, public

panel dialogues, Community Barazas and roundtable discussions. These engagement activities brought us closer to our targeted stakeholders and enabled the Centre's researchers to understand the policy processes more and appreciate the specific contexts in which the different stakeholders. particularly the MDAs work in. A detailed list of the dissemination and outreach events held can be obtained at http://www.eprcug.org. The following is a brief overview of the most notable dissemination and policy engagement events for the period under consideration.

#### Report Launches Launch of the AERC report on Work and Income for Young Men and Women in Africa: Case of Uganda



In working with our partner institutions, the EPRC hosted the launch of the African Economic Research Centre (AERC) report titled *Work and Income for Young Men and Women in Africa: Case of Uganda*, on March 10, 2022. at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala. The study identified promising economic sectors or value chains for job creation for young men and women in selected countries in Africa and identified the country-specific conditions needed for the local and foreign private sectors to invest in these sectors or value chains, among other things.

### Launch of the Foresight Africa Report 2022.

EPRC together with the Brookings Institution co-hosted the launch of Foresight Africa 2022 in Kampala on May 3, 2022. Foresight Africa is a Flagship Report of the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institution. The report captures the top priorities for the region in the coming year, offering recommendations for African and global stakeholders for creating and supporting a strong, sustainable, and successful Africa. In doing so, the Foresight Africa 2022 Kampla launch event offered











participants an opportunity to deliberate on the strategies for boosting financing to protect and enhance the economic gains in Africa, tackling of climate change concerns; and harnessing of African women leadership potential, amongst wavs of navigating the effects of the covid pandemic.

#### Launch of report on "Potential Long-Term Effects of COVID-19 on **Economic and Human Development** in Uganda"



On April 17, 2022, the Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC) and the Frederick S. Pardee Center for

International Futures launched a report on the "Potential Long-term Effects of COVID-19 on Economic and Human Development in Uganda". The report explores the effect of COVID-19 on economic and human development in Uganda in the short and long term. The model examines different scenarios to gauge the damages inflicted on the Ugandan economy. The Current Path scenario reflects the impact of COVID-19, while the No COVID scenario represents the path Uganda was on prior to the pandemic. It also investigates the transformative effect of a policy push towards sustainable development goals agenda and makes policy recommendations. Funded by the European Union, this is the first report published as the outcome of the collaboration between the Pardee Center and EPRC. The full report is available for download both on the EPRC and the Pardee Center website.

#### The Launch of the Agriculture Finance Yearbook 2021



Hon. Henry Musasizi, Minister of State for Finance (General Duties) launch the AFYB 2021. EPRC's Director of Research Ibrahim Kasirye watches on. Photo/EPRC

**Economic Policy Research Centre** together with Agricultural Business Initiative (aBi) published the Agricultural Finance Yearbook 2021. The book, in its eleventh edition, ran under the theme, Agricultural Finance: Coping with Economic Recovery Amidst COVID-19 Environment.

#### Unveiling of study results on the nationwide survey on socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on **MSMEs in Uganda**



EPRC hosted a half-day conference to unveil study results from a nationwide study on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on Micro, Small, and Medium-Sised Enterprises (MSMEs) in Uganda. In particular, the study cleared the haze around the true cost on the Ugandan economy, businesses, jobs. The study, which is part of the of threeyear panel surveys on MSMEs, showed that nearly half a million jobs had been permanently lost in Uganda's education, manufacturing, and hospitality sectors.







#### Policy Dialogues Dialogue on the sugarcane sector in Uganda

The Centre hosted a public dialogue to discuss the sugarcane sector in Uganda under the theme, Rethinking Sugarcane Governance Structures to Better Address Rural Poverty and Food Insecurity. This was during the Eighth Forum on Agriculture and Food Security, an annual form that EPRC hosts to discuss topical issues in the country. The forum also acted as a launchpad for a three-year research programme by EPRC in collaboration with Michigan State University and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) funded by USAID to examine governance structures in the sugarcane sector in Uganda. The dialogue was graced by the state minister for Trade David Bahati who hailed the discussion on the sugarcane sub-sector as timely. He noted that good research in this area will add new knowledge which is very important for the agro-industrialization agenda of this country.

### Dialogue on labour externalisation in Uganda

The Centre, together with INCLUDE Platform, hosted a dialogue on depth

of labour externalisation from Uganda. The dialogue provided platform to discuss the Centre's recent studies on the sector and the trials therein. It was noted that labour externalization had several challenges and "showed weakness in your own economy." The dialogue, which took place on December 15, 2021, in Kampala, also sought to discuss how the returnees can be helped to invest their earnings in the agro-industrialisation value chains in the country.

#### **Community Baraazas**

In the course of her research activities. community barazas are key avenues to reach community members who may not be otherwise reached through public dialogues or workshops in cities. In the year under review, EPRC held several barazas especially on the discussions about the sugarcane sector in the country. Barazas were held in Mayuge district in Eastern Uganda and Masindi district in western Uganda as part of a major study to assess the sugarcane sector in Uganda to understand the intricacies that lie amidst farmers. millers and their communities in general.

#### **Media Coverage**

In the FY 2022-2022, the Centre had an enviable presence in the media, both traditional and new media as our researchers sought to convey their expert knowledge on different issues and drive policy debates. Our research and publications also got extensive interest from the media as reporters sought to enrich their reporting with evidence generated by our researchers.

The Centre generated at least 2,000 mentions in online outlets across Uganda and beyond. At least 47 EPRC mentions were generated in print media, with majority of these being attributions where either our research or our researchers are quoted. Our publications are also used to place background or context in some stories that different media houses are usually discussing. Daily Monitor gave the Centre more mentions at 34 while New Vision gave us 11, and Observer mentioned us nine times. The articles placed by EPRC researchers in newspapers as expert opinions or Op-Eds discussing different topical issues totaled 16 and were ran in Daily Monitor. New Vision and Observer. The following are selected newspaper articles published during the reporting period by EPRC researchers:



EPRC's Dr. Madina Guloba address community meeting in Masindi





#### EPRC Commentaries published by the press in 2021/2022

NO	Author (S)	Title of Article	Date Published	Name of Publication
1.	Enock W.N. Bulime	COVID-19: building inclusive recovery in Uganda	October 21, 2021	New Vision
2.	Rehema Kahunde	Is the NDP III strategy of reducing the informal sector achievable?	November 9, 2021	Daily Monitor
3.	Medard Kakuru	Are schools ready to meet pregnant and breastfeeding learners' needs	December 21, 2021	Daily Monitor
4.	Aida Nattabi and Regean Mugume	How can Uganda benefit from DRC's admission to the EAC?	January 14, 2022	Daily Monitor
5.	Smartson Ainomugisha	Fuel price increases in Uganda: A case for regulation	February 16, 2022	Daily Monitor
6.	Florence Nakazzi	Positioning women in local government politics to address gender equality concerns	March 8, 2022	New Vision
7.	Denis Maya	Mitigating the high cost of electricity to attain inclusive growth	February 21, 2022	New Vision
8.	Tiffany Akurut	Is the Thematic Curriculum still relevant?	March 21, 2022	Daily Monitor
9.	Smartson Ainomugisha	School dropouts likely to increase	March 30, 2022	Daily Monitor
10.	Alon Mwesigwa	With DRC on board, EAC should find a regional solution to refugees	April 13, 2022	Daily Monitor
11.	Smartson Ainomugisha	Curbing the growing burden of NCDs	May 04, 2022	Daily Monitor
12.	Medard Kakuru	Why pesticides have failed to fight armyworms	May 9, 2022	Daily Monitor
13.	Dr. Linda Nakato	Is oil Uganda's answer to attaining middle income status?	May 11, 2022	Observer
14.	Regean Mugume	How Uganda reaps from digital gains	May 30, 2022	Daily Monitor
15.	Justine Luwedde	Will the recently adopted common external tariff boost local production?	June 22, 2022	Observer
16.	Mary Kajumba	Will Oil host status alter fortunes of Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom's subjects?	June 30, 2022	New Vision

#### **Broadcast Media**

In terms of broadcast media, our researchers realised at least 20 media appearances on both radio and television. This included live broadcasts where the Centre hosted some of its events live on television on top of physical attendance to conferences. The events held live on TV in 2021-2022 include the broadcast on "Building resilience and recovery of SMEs from the second Covid 19 lockdown" on NTV Uganda on July 29, 2021. The Centre also hosted live the 8th National Forum on Agriculture and food security which focused on "Rethinking sugarcane governance structures to fight poverty and food insecurity" on August 25, 2021. Both events generated up to 3,000 views.



A tour inside Kakira Sugar Works factory



#### **Social and Online Media Presence**

The Centre continued to embrace social media and other digital channels as a platform for sharing its research products and engaging with its stakeholders. Key among these is the Centre's website that is seeing continuous improvement to make user-experience flawless. In addition, the electronic newsletter was used to churn out information on a regular basis about

the centre's activities and knowledge products. In total 6 issues of the bimonthly organisational newsletter were produced and widely circulated during the reporting period.

In terms of social media usage, our organic Facebook post reach is 300 people and we have reached 3,115 general page followers. Our Tweets, which captured our research activities and research products did well, reaching an average of 30,000 persons

with May 2022 topping monthly views with up to 36,000 people. Our following on Twitter is also growing steadily, reaching 3,300 as at June 30, 2022. On YouTube, the Centre flowing is growing slowly but steadily. Our post on the mythologies around coffee consumption in Uganda has been the most popular, racking up to 700 views. In relation to blogs, a total of sixteen (16) blogs were published by researchers as per the table below.

#### Blogs Published in FY 2021/2022

Date	Author	Title	Location on Website
June 29, 2022	Mary Kajumba	Will Digital financing improve inclusivity and livelihoods for women in Uganda?	https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/will-digital-financing-improve-inclusivity-and-livelihoods-for-women-in-uganda/
June 27, 2022	Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime, Linda Nakato	Why Uganda's transition to lower fiscal deficit and debt levels remains uncertain	https://eprcug.org/press-releases/why-ugandas-transition-to-lower-fiscal-deficit-and-debt-levels-remains-uncertain/
June 22, 2022	Justine Luwedde	Will the Recently Adopted EAC's Common External Tariff Boost Local Production?	https://eprcug.org/eprc-in-the-news/will-the-recently-adopted-eacs-common-external-tariff-boost-local-production/
June 14, 2022	Linda Nakato	Is oil Uganda's answer to attaining middle-income status?	https://eprcug.org/eprc-in-the-news/is-oil-ugandas- answer-to-attaining-middle-income-status/
May 10, 2022	Elizabeth Birabwa	Strengthening Evidence Use During a Period of Reforms and Transitions: Lessons from Uganda	https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/strengthening-evidence-use-during-a-period-of-reforms-and-transitions-lessons-from-uganda/
April 13, 2022	Alon Mwesigwa	With DRC on Board, the EAC Should Find a Regional Solution to Refugees	https://eprcug.org/eprc-in-the-news/with-drc-on-board-the-eac-should-find-a-regional-solution-to-refugees/
April 8, 2022	Florence Nakazzi	Position Women in Local Government Politics to Address Gender Equality	https://eprcug.org/eprc-in-the-news/position-women-in-local-government-politics-to-address-gender-equality/
April 5, 2022	Tiffany Akurut	Is the thematic curriculum still relevant?	https://eprcug.org/eprc-in-the-news/is-the-thematic- curriculum-still-relevant/
March 17, 2022	Medard Kakuru, Tiffany Akurut	Uganda's food loss and waste dilemma: The role of post-harvest handling	https://eprcug.org/press-releases/ugandas-food-loss-and- waste-dilemma-the-role-of-post-harvest-handling/
March 13, 2022	EPRC Uganda	Uganda held hostage by changes in international commodity prices	https://eprcug.org/press-releases/uganda-held-hostage-by-changes-in-international-commodity-prices/
March 8, 2022	Smartson Ainomugisha	How the Parish Development Model can support job creation efforts under NDP III	https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/how-the-parish- development-model-can-support-job-creation-efforts- under-ndp-iii/
February 28, 2022	Smartson Ainomugisha	Fuel price increases in Uganda: A case for regulation	https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/fuel-price-increases-in- uganda-a-case-for-regulation/









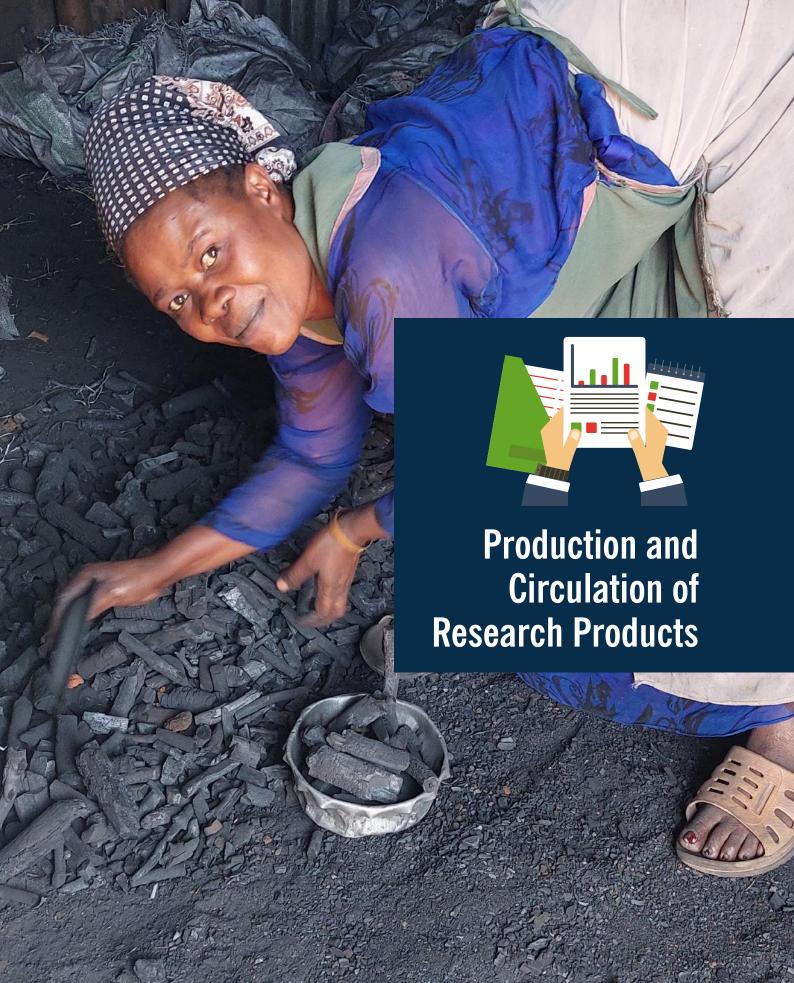


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Date	Author	Title	Location on Website
February 23, 2022	Sawuya Nakijoba	Parish Development Model: key issues that may derail progress	https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/parish-development- model-key-issues-that-may-derail-progress/
February 17, 2022	Denis Maya	Is high cost of electricity a challenge to industrialization?	https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/is-high-cost-of-electricity-a-challenge-to-industrialization/
February 16, 2022	Aida Kibirige Nattabi, Justine Luwedde	Mitigating infrastructural deficiencies for sustainable and inclusive urbanisation	https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/mitigating- infrastructural-deficiencies-for-sustainable-and-inclusive- urbanisation/
January 14, 2022	Linda Nakato	COVID-19: How to boost vaccine uptake in Uganda	https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/COVID-19-how-to-boost-vaccine-uptake-in-uganda/
December 21, 2022	Smartson Ainomugisha, Sawuya Nakijoba	How Uganda can avoid China debt trap	https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/how-uganda-can-avoid-china-debt-trap/
December 21, 2022	Medard Kakuru	Are schools ready for pregnant and breast-feeding learners' needs?	https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/are-schools-ready-for- pregnant-and-breast-feeding-learners-needs/
November 10, 2021	Denis Maya, Smartson Ainomugisha	How COVID-19 has worsened inequality conditions in Uganda	https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/how-COVID-19-has-worsened-inequality-conditions-in-uganda/
October 25, 2021	Rehema Kahunde	Is the NDP III strategy of reducing the informal sector achievable?	https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/is-the-ndp-iii-strategy-of-reducing-the-informal-sector-achievable/
October 22, 2021	Blessing Atwine	COVID-19 and e-learning in Uganda: How can the education access inequality gap be closed?	https://eprcug.org/press-releases/COVID-19-and-e-learning-in-uganda-how-can-the-education-access-inequality-gap-be-closed/
September 30, 2021	Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime	COVID-19: fiscal policy options to address rising inequality in Uganda	https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/COVID-19-fiscal-policy-options-to-address-rising-inequality-in-uganda/
August 30, 2021	Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime, Umar Kabanda	Repositioning the youth as active participants in reducing effects of COVID-19 in Uganda	https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/repositioning-the-youth-as-active-participants-in-reducing-effects-of-COVID-19-in-uganda/
July 4, 2021	Umar Kabanda, Francis Mwesigye	Cultural Heritage and Renewable Energy: How Bujagali Hydro-Electricity Generation Project sparked a latent conflict	https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/cultural-heritage- and-renewable-energy-how-bujagali-hydro-electricity- generation-project-sparked-a-latent-conflict/



Kitante Primary School pupils up line for morning briefing. EPRC research on impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs had a special focus on schools. Photo/EPRC





The Centre generated various research and policy analysis outputs that were eventually published under the Centre's in-house publication series for wider circulation; and others in refereed journals/ book chapters for academic and professional consumption.

The in-house publication series included: EPRC Research Series for core research papers; Occasional papers for commissioned works, Research reports, policy briefs/fact sheets, and the Business Climate Index, Case studies and Policy Notes. Key EPRC publications for the period July 2021 — June 2022 are presented below.



#### Selected book chapters, Journal articles and works published externally in FY 2021/22

Name (s)	Title	Journal or Book Details
EPRC Uganda	Agricultural Finance Yearbook 2021	EPRC Uganda and Agribusiness Initiative (aBi) https://eprcug.org/publication/agricultural-finance-yearbook-2021/
Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime	Public Debt Sustainability: Estimating the Fiscal Reaction Function for Uganda (1981/82–2016/17)	Tanzanian Economic Review, Vol. 11 No. 1, June 2021: 1–34
Regean Mugume	Macro-Economic Effects of COVID-19 on Food Insecurity: Evidence from Select COMESA Countries	African Journal of Economic Review; Vol. 9 No. 3 (2021): Special Issue on COVID-19.
Tonny Odokonyero and Francis Mwesigye	Maternal Health Care Among Refugees and Host Communities in Northern Uganda: Access, Quality, and Discrimination	Frontiers in Global Women's Health on August 20, 2021
Medard Kakuru	Scaling Smallholder Farmer Empowerment: Lessons from the Lifelong Learning Program in Uganda	Journal of Learning for Development. 2021, Vol.8, No.2, pp.431-447
Dablin Mpuuga	Barriers to, and facilitators of, the adoption of a sugar sweetened beverage tax to prevent non-communicable diseases in Uganda: a policy landscape analysis	Tanzanian Economic Review, Vol. 11 No. 2, December 2021: 1–21
Medard Kakuru	Consumer Preferences for The Quality Characteristics of Sorghum Grain in Eastern Uganda: A Choice Experiment Approach	African Crop Science Journal, Vol. 29, No. 4, pp. $497-512$
Elizabeth Birabwa	Using evidence diagnostics to think and work politically: SEDI's experience	SEDI Learning Brief 5, Strengthening Evidence Use for Development Impact, Oxford.2021
Gemma Ahaibwe, Mildred Barungi, Elizabeth Birabwa and Medard Kakuru	The Role of Evidence in Policy making in Uganda: A Political Economy Analysis	Strengthening Evidence Use for Development Impact SEDI: Oxford. 2021
Regean Mugume and Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime	Post COVID-19 Recovery for African Economies: Lessons for Digital Financial Inclusion from Kenya and Uganda	African Development Review Journal; Afr Dev Rev. 2022;1–16





#### Some of the research products published in-house in FY2021/2022

Pub.	Author	Title	Date
	y Notes		
1.	EPRC Uganda/MoFPED	Transformation of the Livestock Value Chain for Agro- Industrialisation	October 15, 2021
2	Corti Paul Lakuma, Brian Sserunjogi, Nathan Sunday, Rehema Kahunde and Ambrose Ogwang	The effect of COVID-19 on the operations of agro-processing MSMEs in Uganda $$	October 22, 2021
3	Francis Mwesigye, Tonny Odokonyero, Mildred Barungi and Nathan Sunday	A Rapid Assessment of the Effect of the COVID-19 Lockdown on Micro, Small and Medium Transport businesses in Uganda	November 3, 2021
4	Francis Mwesigye, Tonny Odokonyero, Mildred Barungi and Nathan Sunday	A Rapid Assessment of the Effect of the COVID-19 Lockdown on Livelihoods and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises in Uganda	November 3, 2021
5.	Sarah Ssewanyana	Harnessing the Development Potential of Household Enterprises in the COVID-19 Environment in Uganda	November 3, 2021
6.	Francis Mwesigye, Corti Paul Lakuma and Linda Nakato	Potential Long-term Effects of COVID-19 on Economic and Human Development in Uganda	April 17, 2022
7.	Brian Sserunjogi, Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime and Ibrahim Kasirye	What explains Uganda's surge in laundry soap and cooking oil prices in 2021/22?	April 17, 2022
8.	Tonny Odokonyero and Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime	Drivers of changes in Uganda's fuel pump prices during the COVID-19 crisis.	April 17, 2022
9.	Tonny Odokonyero and Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime	Drivers of changes in Uganda's fuel pump prices during the COVID-19 crisis.	April 17, 2022
Polic	y Briefs		
1.	Francis Mwesigye	Gender, unpaid care work in Uganda: Evidence from the 2017-18 Time Use Survey	September 10, 2021
2.	Madina Guloba and Dablin Mpuuga	How improving quality and standards in the Ugandan fish value chain impacts sustainable development of decent jobs	September 24, 2021
3.	EPRC Uganda/ MoFPED	Uganda loses USD 271 million annually due to limited investment in leather processing	October 15, 2021
4.	EPRC Uganda/ MoFPED	Investing in high-end dairy products is critical for fostering Uganda's agro-industrialisation agenda	October 15, 2021
5.	EPRC Uganda/ MoFPED	Ensuring the right cattle breeds and the required standards to transform the beef value chain	October 15, 2021
6.	EPRC Uganda/ MoFPED	Livestock associations and cooperatives: Implications for livestock sector transformation	October 15, 2021
7.	EPRC Uganda/ MoFPED	How Gaps in traceability systems affect Uganda's livestock sector transformation	October 15, 2021
8.	Mildred Barungi, Florence Nakazi and Ibrahim Kasirye	What interventions are required to achieve gender balance in political representation at the local government level?	October 22, 2021
9.	Francis Mwesigye	COVID-19 Implications on Private Investment and Markets in East Africa	
10.	Blessing Atwine and Madina Guloba	Career guidance and counselling: A bridge in reducing skills-job mismatches in Uganda?	December 23, 2021
11.	Madina Guloba and Blessing Atwine	Digital technologies uptake is still low in Ugandan Secondary and Tertiary institutions	December 23, 2021
12.	Aida Kibirige Nattabi, Isaac Shinyekwa and Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime	Which products should Uganda leverage for export diversification?	December 24, 2021
13.	Regean Mugume and Aida Kibirige Nattabi	How is Uganda likely to benefit from DRC's membership in the EAC bloc?	December 24, 2021





Pub.	Author	Title	Date
14.	Justine Luwedde, Isaac Shinyekwa and Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime	Potential products and sectors for Uganda's export expansion	December 24, 2021
15.	Rehema Kahunde, Corti Paul Lakuma and Brian Sserunjogi	How currency fluctuations affect SME access to credit and investment decisions: The case study of Uganda, Kenya and Ghana	March 11, 2022
16.	Rehema Kahunde, Blessing Atwine and Nathan Sunday	How Specific Resilience Pillars Mitigate the Impact of Drought on Food Security: Evidence from Uganda	May 21, 2022
Resea	arch Series		
1.	Regean Mugume and Aida Kibirige Nattabi	How Will the Democratic Republic of Congo's Joining the EAC Bloc Affect Regional Trade?	September 19, 2021
2.	Isaac Shinyekwa, Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime, Aida Kibirige Nattabi and Justine Luwedde	Potential Products for Uganda's Export Expansion and Diversification	October 1, 2021
3.	EPRC Uganda	The Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 On Business Enterprises in Uganda: Evidence from Micro, Small and Medium-Sised Enterprises	June 23, 2022
Busin	ness Climate Index		
1.	Brian Sserunjogi, Corti Paul Lakuma, Rehema Kahunde and Nathan Sunday	Ugandan Manufacturing sector performance declines as future business outlook further dampens.	September 24, 2021
2.	Rehema Kahunde, Nathan Sunday, Brian Sserunjogi, Corti Paul Lakuma and Ambrose Ogwang	The effects of COVID-19 lockdowns on Ugandan businesses: A comparison of the 2020 and the 2021 lockdowns	October 22, 2021
3.	Rehema Kahunde, Denis Maya, Corti Paul Lakuma, Brian Sserunjogi and Ambrose Ogwang	Disruptions from the second COVID-19 lockdown affect the business environment, and the future outlook remains downcast	December 21, 2021
4.	Ambrose Ogwang, Denis Maya, Rehema Kahunde, Corti Paul Lakuma and Brian Sserunjogi	COVID-19 containment measures disrupt businesses, but more remain optimistic about future	March 13, 2022
5.	Rehema Kahunde, Ambrose Ogwang, Denis Maya, Corti Paul Lakuma and Brian Sserunjogi	School reopening in Uganda after the COVID-19 lockdowns: preparedness, attrition, challenges and prospects for recovery	April 7, 2022
6.	Denis Maya, Ambrose Ogwang, Rehema Kahunde, Corti Paul Lakuma and Brian Sserunjogi	How does the increase in the transport and distribution costs, because of the global oil price changes, affect Ugandan businesses?	April 10, 2022
7.	Ambrose Ogwang, Denis Maya, Rehema Kahunde, Corti Paul Lakuma and Brian Sserunjogi	An increase in the price of goods and services affects business operations	June 24, 2022
Ugan	dan Economy Today		
1.	Medard Kakuru, Regean Mugume, Aida Kibirige Nattabi, Justine Luwedde, Nathan Sunday, Rehema Kahunde, Blessing Atwine and Enock Nsubuga	The Ugandan Economy Today Quarter 1 July-September 2020	September 24, 2021
2	Medard Kakuru, Regean Mugume, Aida Kibirige Nattabi, Justine Luwedde, Rehema Kahunde, Blessing Atwine and Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime	The Ugandan Economy Today Quarter 2 October-December 2020	November 9, 2021
3.	Medard Kakuru, Regean Mugume, Aida K. Nattabi, Rehema Kahunde, Blessing Atwine, Enock W. N. Bulime	Ugandan Economy Today Quarter 3 January-March 2021	December 8, 2021
4.	Medard Kakuru, Regean Mugume, Aida Kibirige Nattabi, Justine Luwedde, Nathan Sunday, Rehema Kahunde, Blessing Atwine and Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime	Ugandan Economy Today Quarter 4 April-June 2021	March 5, 2022

All the above-listed publications are available at: http://www.eprcug.or



The UN resident coordinator in Uganda Ms. Susan Ngongi Namondo paid a courtesy visit to EPRC.



Strengthening and Diversifying the EPRC Resource Base













n the year 2021-22, EPRC management strived to enhance organisational effectiveness and efficiency as well as interventions geared towards mobilising additional resources through some of the following activities.



#### **Institutional strengthening Board Induction/ training:**

The Centre conducted a one-day Board training session for its Board Directors. The objective/ purpose of the training was to:

- To develop insights into best practices to understand how they improve coherence in direction and strategy, drive corporate responsibility, and improve EPRC accountability for stakeholder confidence.
- To clarify the individual and collective roles and responsibilities of the Board (Chairperson, the ED and other Directors) so that they have better knowledge of what of expected of them; and
- To increase member participation and fulfilment regarding their roles as Directors.

#### **Staff Management and Transitions**

By close of FY2021/22, the Centre had a total of 43 staff members. Out of the 43. 23 were research staff including the Executive Director, and some volunteer research associates, 20 were



non- research staff. In this period the Centre witnessed two staff exits namely: Dr. Mildred Barungi, Senior Research Fellow, who left in October 2021 and Dr. Francis Mwesigye Senior Research Fellow, who left in January 2022. In October 2021, the Centre recruited Ms. Betty Kuteesa as Senior Accountant to boost number and capacity of human resoources in the Finance Department in handling the roles and responsibilities of the Department more efficiently and effectively. This resolved the issue of understaffing in the Finance Department.

The Centre was also able to recruit and build capacity of seven (7) interns. Two of these were from the College of Business and Management Sciences, Makerere University and five were from International Universities.

#### **In-house Staff Capacity** Strengthening



Centre held a one day sensitization/ training session on Business Continuity Planning and Disaster Recovery (BCP/ DR) to build resiliency through business continuity management; attended by Members of the Senior Management Team, Heads of Departments, Finance team as well as the ICT staff. This was held on 26th November 2021 in the EPRC Boardroom facilitated by Mr. Mustapha Mugisa, of Summit Consulting Ltd. The EPRC Team received practical training using case studies and real-life scenarios which enhanced their skills in business continuity and disaster recovery.







EPRC signed a pact for strategic partnership with Uganda Development Bank.

#### **Networks and Partnerships**

In line with the current 2017/18-2020/21 EPRC Strategic pillars, several activities were undertaken to improve EPRC's networking and partnership building efforts. These activities included a response to partners' requests, participation of researchers in targeted meetings and representation on international fora. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic most of these interactions were virtual and notable among them were:

# Requests for Expert Advice and Contribution to Research and Policy Processes

- I. Collaboration request from Bishop Stuart University (BSU) Mbarara for networking and mentorship in the areas of policy research and analysis; and policy engagement.
- II. The Center for the Study of
  Economic and Social Affairs
  (CERES)- a multidiscplinary think
  tank based in Uruguay sought
  for collaboration with EPRC as a
  way of expanding their reach and
- network with similar organizations globally. The primary purpose of the partnership would be to share relevant information, learn from each other and collaborate on potentially relevant areas of work.
- III. The Southern and Eastern Africa
  Trade Information and Negotiations
  Institute (SEATINI) approached
  EPRC to join the working group set
  up to generate stakeholder positions
  and input into the draft study on
  EAC negotiating FTAs with selected
  third parties namely; China, India,
  EFTA States, Gulf Cooperations
  Council and Turkey.



EPRC staff participate in the academic staff procession during the 72nd graduation at Makerere University



### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022

DESCRIPTION ASSETS	NOTES	AS AT 30.06.2022 UGX	AS AT 30.06.2021 UGX
Non- Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	3	1,351,680,815	1,305,126,947
Intangible Assets		13,499,819	22,747,988
		1,365,180,634	1,327,874,935
Current Assets			
Receivables	4	329,679,512	92,916,009
Investment in Treasury Bills	5	5,276,931,770	3,022,545,153
Cash & Cash Equivalent	6	4,148,719,201	6,483,372,607
		9,755,330,483	9,598,833,769
TOTAL ASSETS		11,120,511,117	10,926,708,704
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Share Holders' Funds	7	1,219,676,318	1,285,664,810
Revaluation Reserve		486,621,778	486,621,778
Strategic Reserve	8	6,394,678,684	6,387,251,778
	8	8,100,976,780	8,159,538,366
Liabilities			
Deferred Revenue Grants	9	1,872,700,306	1,830,031,607
Capital Grant		7,319,398	9,756,715
Payables	10	1,139,514,633	927,382,016
:t)		3,019,534,337	2,767,170,338
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIBILITIES	9	11,120,511,117	10,926,708,704

The accounting policies and notes set out on 10 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 6 to 18 were approved by the Board of Directors on 27 10 2022

Chairperson

Executive Director

Date

Date Oct 27,2022





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