

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2019-
JUNE 2020



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:

E

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



I

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



S

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.



E

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



R

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.



I

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.



E

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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Executive Director's Message



Sarah N. Ssewanyana, PhD
Executive Director

I am delighted to present to you the Economic Policy Research Centre's annual report 2019/20. It is worth noting that during the implementation of the 2019-2020 work plan, Uganda and the rest of the world were affected by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the lockdown conditions announced by the Government of Uganda (GoU) and the associated social distancing requirements, the Centre closed its doors to staff and the public on 24th March 2020 and formally re-opened on 29th June 2020. Although some research was undertaken remotely during the lockdown period, several fieldwork and dissemination events were cancelled/postponed due to the prevailing conditions. Consequently, some research activities planned for 2019-2020 did not take off due to the pandemic.

I firmly do uphold that despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, EPRC continued to play an invaluable role in fostering sustainable growth and development of the Ugandan economy by advancing the role of research in policy processes.

During the year, the Centre continued to produce policy-relevant economic research studies that responded to the priority needs of major stakeholders, including both practitioners and policy makers. Following our previous works on the Fostering an Agro-Industrialisation Agenda and the resultant Public Investment Management for Agro-Industry (PIMA) Strategy, the Centre successfully responded to a presidential directive to undertake market studies on nine (9) PIMA strategic commodities. The market studies focused on industrialisation prospects, i.e. potential industrial linkages, potential transformative technologies, potential products and by-products, production capacity, and markets, including local demand. Based on the market studies' findings and recommendations, a cabinet memo was presented to the Minister of Finance on July 10, 2020.

The other studies produced in response to demand from government agencies, included among others, a study on *"Ensuring sustainable livelihoods for poverty reduction in Uganda"* and another reviewing the performance of the *Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) III for Northern Uganda* as well as designing a new PRDP IV. Both studies were conducted on request by the Office of the Prime Minister. In addition, two requests were received from the Ministry of Finance to examine why other developing countries were able to finance their agricultural sector adequately in comparison to Uganda; and to explore how the private sector can meaningfully contribute to the development of the identified value chain(s) for sustainable agro-industrialisation.

The Centre also demonstrated the ability to conduct cross-country comparative studies, as evidenced by the rise in the number of such studies. In the period under review, the Centre was engaged in three such studies. These included the Brookings Africa Growth Initiative and partners' work on the job creation potential of Industries Without Smokestacks (IWOSS); a six-country project that the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) is coordinating on Youth, Employment and Skills (YES) in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Ethiopia, Niger, Rwanda and Uganda;

and Development Aid, Effectiveness and Inequalities in post-conflict societies project implemented in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Uganda under the leadership of the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO).

Convening Power

To bring forth and amplify EPRC's research in the national policy arena, the Centre convened dissemination events based either on its planned research activities or in collaboration with think tanks, research institutions and development partners. Three public dialogues were held- one to make a case for sustainable financing for essential health services, another to advocate for the use of quality gender statistics using the Time Use Survey Report; and the last one, to raise awareness about Uganda's current stand regarding commitment towards ending gender-based violence. In addition, two books/reports were launched (Foresight Africa 2020 Report and Agriculture Finance Yearbook 2019). As part of increasing its international presence and visibility, the Centre convened two international symposia, one on Chinese Lessons for Africa and the other on Partnerships, Policy, and Systems Development for Universal Health Coverage. The former was jointly organised with the University of Nottingham and the latter with a consortium of implementing partners of the project on Supporting Policy Engagement for Evidence- Based Decisions for Universal Health (SPEED) led by Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH). EPRC researchers also participated as panellists, discussants and presenters at various international forums and conferences, most notably: 6th COMESA Research Forum held in Nairobi, 25th Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS), in Libreville, Gabon and the Southern Voice Global Launch of the State of the SDGs Report in Geneva.

The Centre helped shape national policy through its participation in drafting teams' of policy documents, including the review of the Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020 of Ministry of Agriculture and the design of 2020 – 2025 Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan. This focused on the Tea sector framework implementation plan. The Centre also contributed to policy reform proposals, including pension reforms, Government Asset Management, agro-industrialisation, resource mobilisation, and allocation through its membership on the Accountability sector working group. The EPRC researchers were also actively involved in offering technical support as trainers to the African Union Commission Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture to implement the scorecard for the Malabo declaration.

Partnerships and resource mobilisation

For EPRC, 2019/20 was an excellent financial year in terms of partnership building, strengthening and diversification of our resource base. We established several new research partnerships with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) through grants to implement two new projects—one to examine the policies, measures and strategies to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of COVID -19 on households. The other to identify context-relevant priority actions that promote healthy food consumption patterns and facilitate knowledge translation pathways to prevent nutrition-related NCDs in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. The Centre was also able to sign onto 11 other research partnerships with namely; UN-WOMEN, INCLUDE platform, Brookings Institution, Oxford Policy Management (OPM), Michigan State University (MSU), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Uganda country office, Netherland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO), Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD) and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM).

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all our funders and collaborators for the financial and technical support. I also extend our gratitude to the EPRC Board of Management for the oversight and guidance offered in the past year that enabled us to manage the adverse effects caused by COVID-19 on our work and harness the opportunities it presented. I also thank the EPRC staff for adapting to flexible working, especially during the lockdown period where some research was undertaken remotely. Despite the challenges posed by COVID 19, we are more than ever committed and well-positioned to pursue the Centre's mission of fostering sustainable growth and development of the Ugandan economy by advancing evidence-informed decision-making.

Sarah N. Ssewanyana, PhD
Executive Director

Board of Management



Prof. William Bazeyo
 Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration, Makerere University
 (Deputy Chairperson)



Prof. Grace Bantebya Kyomuhendo
 Professor, School of Women and Gender Studies
 (Member Representing Research Community)



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



Dr. Jacob Opolot
 Director Research Department, Bank of Uganda
 (Ex-officio Member Representing Governor, BOU)



Mr. Gideon Badagawa
 Executive Director, Private Sector Foundation of Uganda
 (Private Sector Representative)



Ms. Edigold Monday
 Managing Director, Bank of Africa (U) Ltd (Independent Member)



Dr. John B. Ssekamatte- Ssebuliba
 Head of Population and Social Services Planning National Planning Authority (Public Sector Representative)

EPRC Staff as at June 2020

Research Staff



Dr. Sarah N. Ssewanyana (PhD)
Executive Director



Dr. Ibrahim Kasirye (PhD)
Director Research, Head Research



Dr. Swaibu Mbowe (PhD)
Senior Research Fellow, Sectoral



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Senior Research Fellow, Macroeconomics



Dr. Isaac Shinyekwa (PhD)
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Dr. Madina Guloba (PhD)
Senior Research Fellow, Microeconomics



Dr. Mildred Barungi (PhD)
Research Fellow, Sectoral



Dr. Francis Mwesigye (PhD)
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Dr. Brian Sserunjogi (PhD)
Research Fellow, Macroeconomics



Mr. Paul Corti Lakuma
Research Fellow, Macroeconomics



Ms. Gemma Ahaibwe
Research Fellow, Microeconomics



Mr. Tony Odokonyero
Research Analyst, Sectoral



Ms. Anita Ntale
Research Analyst, TRI



Mr. Martin Luther Muni
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Ms. Rehema Kahunde
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Mr. Bulime Nsubuga
Volunteer Research Associate



Mr. Nathan Sunday
Volunteer Research Associate

Administrative and Support Staff



Ms. Mary Tusaba Kivunike
Director Finance & Shared Services



Mr. Denis Arop Nono
Accountant



Ms. Elizabeth Birabwa Aliro
Programmes Manager



Ms. Vanice Nuwagaba
Procurement Officer



Mr. Jossy Muhangi
Communications Officer



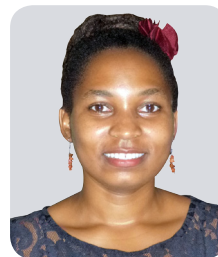
Ms. Peace Nagawa
Knowledge Management Specialist



Mr. Mouris Opolot
Communications Assistant



Mr. Amos Musoke
ICT Consultant



Ms. Precious Ekinamushabire
ICT Associate



Ms. Fatumah Namubiru
Human Resource & Administration Manager



Ms. Caroline Nyakaisiki
Executive Assistant



Mr. Anthony Ochieng
Administrative Officer



Ms. Aminah Balunywa
Front Desk Officer



Sam Lakwonyera
Transport Officer



Mr. Deo Barugahare
Transport Officer



Mr. Godson Busengendo
Transport Officer



Mr. Tonny Stephen Mayanja
Transport Officer



Mr. Robert Muzaaya
Office Attendant



Mr. Lawrence Luzze
Office Attendant

Research and Policy Analysis Performance

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 youth employment issues. The research theme for the FY 2019/2020 was *"Creating Productive Employment for Youth in Uganda"*. The rising unemployment partly guided the choice of the theme. In particular, among youth in Uganda and Africa in general as well as recent phenomena of labour externalisation characterised by mass migration youths to the Middle East in search for jobs, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This section provides the status of implementation of research activities undertaken from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020. It is organised along the three key research related areas of focus in the EPRC current 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. The following are highlights of the studies accomplished under this focus area during the review period:

Public Investment Management for Agro-industrialisation (PIMA) Market Studies



In December 2019, EPRC, through the office of the Deputy Secretary to the Treasury, MoFPED received a presidential directive to undertake market studies on the Public Investment Management for Agro-industrialisation (PIMA) strategic commodities. EPRC was requested to undertake market research studies on the proposed 9 PIMA commodities as well as an additional product--Irish Potatoes under the Strategic Economic Policy and Management Forum (STEPMAN) series. The objective of the market studies was to establish: (i) Different uses of identified agricultural commodities; (ii) Product space and potential value of identified commodities; (iii) Uganda's potential to harness the product range of identified product space; and (iv) Potential local and foreign demand for the identified products. The work commenced in January 2020 and between March and

May 2020 several presentations were made to the Ministers of Finance and those of Agriculture. Based on the market studies, a cabinet memo responding to the request was drafted in June 2020. The Cabinet Memo was presented to the Minister of Finance on 10th July 2020. During the reporting period EPRC, finalised the various research products that were generated as part of the comprehensive study on "Fostering a sustainable agro-industrialisation agenda in Uganda" that had commenced in the previous financial year. These included a research report, case studies and policy briefs highlighting the value chains of the selected nine priority commodities and how public investments could be managed for each commodity. These products were used in budget preparations, policy engagement, and guiding the PIMA strategy.

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 that 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 issues No 25 produced in July 2019, Issue number 26 produced in September 2019, issue 27 produced in December 2019 and No 28 produced in March 2020.

In addition, a special BCI was commissioned in April 2020 to understand the business climate in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the containment measures adopted by Uganda. The special edition of the COVID-19 Business Climate Index (BCI), produced in May 2020, received significant traction both locally and among international partners. Several Ugandan newspapers offered special profile of the findings, and the authors were invited to appear as guests on TV stations. Several international partners—notably Brookings Institution and INCLUDE platform—requested and published blogs synthesising the research on their websites. We also received some regional partners requesting to use the EPRC methodology in other countries, e.g. the Development Bank of Zambia. Most importantly, as a result of the COVID-BCI, EPRC received a request from the Ministry of Labour Gender and Social Development (MLGSD) to undertake a similar rapid assessment focusing on labour issues.

Ugandan Economy Today

During the reporting period, EPRC rekindled the Ugandan Economy Today after several years of not circulating. The “*Ugandan Economy Today*” is a quarterly review of the economic performance of Uganda. 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 rates and interest rates. The policy section reviews monetary and fiscal policy stances as well as international trade developments. During the FY 2019/20, three issues were produced as follows: **Issue 1:** April-June 2019, **Issue 2:** July-September 2019 and **Issue 3:** October-December 2019.

Implementation progress of the SDGs: Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Survey.



In collaboration with the Southern Voice, EPRC contributed to the generation of evidence that informed the global dialogue on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda. This study explored SDG implementation in the context of the global 2030 Agenda and the region’s own Agenda 2063. The study highlighted salient issues affecting SDG implementation and different country approaches to implementation. It focused on the implementation of three SDGs: quality education (SDG 4), affordable and clean energy (SDG7), and decent work and economic growth (SDG8). Progress, processes, structures, and status of SDG implementation were examined in light of the five implementation challenges policy alignment, institutional structures, resource mobilisation, partnerships and participation, and data availability and accountability mechanisms. Besides the United Nations 2030 Agenda, Africa signed up to two other major development programs—the Agenda 2063 and the 2011 Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA). The study illustrated the challenges of aligning multiple regional agendas—which, in the case of Sub-

Saharan Africa—are in some instances, competing with the global 2030 Agenda. Southern Voice approved the final draft of this research report in October 2019. The report was launched in January 2020 in Geneva Switzerland and was published as an Occasional Paper No 66 on the Southern Voice website.

RCT on Education and Displacement



In May 2019, the Centre commenced the implementation of a new RCT in partnership with the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO) titled “*Education and displacement: An impact-evaluation of an Accelerated Education Program (AEP) for refugees in Uganda*”. The project’s rationale is to improve the evidence base about AEPs to better understand this variation in AEP access and learning outcomes, given the disparate backgrounds of the students who participate in them. During 2019/2020, the following tasks were completed: (i) Randomisation conducted in January 2020 and (ii) enumerators training, baseline data collected in January 2020. This was supposed to be a 5-year research study implemented in the refugee-hosting areas of West Nile in collaboration with PRIO and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). A grant from Dubai Cares financed the project. However, at the end of June 2020, the project was discontinued after one year of implementation due to the challenges of working in the refugee camps. PRIO communicated the termination on 30th June 2020; the project’s wrap-up was to be concluded by 31st October 2020.



Photo by: aBi Development Limited

Survey of perceptions of maternal health in refugee areas of Northern Uganda



Following the completion of the *Development Aid, Effectiveness and Inequalities in post-conflict societies project* (2016-2019) with the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO), a survey was commissioned to establish perception of maternal health services among local and refugee mothers. The study sought to map the usage and perceptions about maternal health services (MHS) in 3 refugee hosting districts of Arua, Adjumani and Yumbe. To achieve this objective, a survey of 1000 mothers was conducted among the local and refugee communities in the selected districts. This survey was undertaken in November 2019 and the project completed in December 2019.

Agricultural Finance Year Book 2020

EPRC worked closely with the Agricultural Finance Platform to ensure continuity in the production of the Agricultural Finance Year Book (AFYB). The AFYB has been in production since 2007, intending to inform the gaps in policy. 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. By the time of writing this report, preparations for the 2020 edition were ongoing, with 16 draft articles authored by a variety of stakeholders undergoing peer review. For the first time since EPRC took on editing of the book, an invitation was extended to MAAIF to author an article. The book was launched in December 2020.



Research studies responding to priority needs of major stakeholders

The research undertaken under this category is requested and funded by particular clients but is in line with the Centre's research agenda and medium strategic plan priorities. During the financial year 2019/20, through its Directorate of Research, the Centre continued to receive requests for new studies from various government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). A short description of these studies is provided as follows:

Livelihood Assessment Studies

In FY2019/20 EPRC continued to implement the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) 's livelihood assessment study—carried over from FY2018/19. The study sought to assess why public investments in livelihood improvement programs had not sustainably enhanced household incomes and sequentially reduced income poverty. Under OPM's joint coordination, EPRC researchers conducted fieldwork during August-September 2019 and completed a draft report in November 2019. The draft report was presented to the technical team of OPM (including the Permanent Secretary) in December 2019. The report was also presented to the National Monitoring and Evaluation working group in March 2020. The report covered the following thematic areas: Evolution of livelihoods for poverty reduction, institutions, policies and processes, financing investments for sustainable livelihoods and enhancement of people's incomes.

Review of Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) III for Northern Uganda



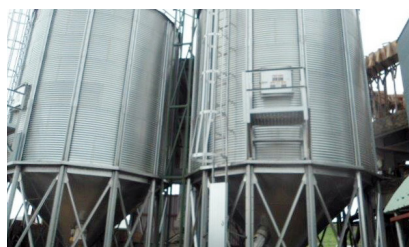
At the request of the Permanent Secretary OPM, in December 2019, EPRC commenced a new study reviewing the performance of the Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) III for Northern Uganda as well as designing a new PRDP IV. EPRC retained several senior researchers from Makerere University (who had worked on the 2015 Human Development for Northern Uganda) to support the project's internal EPRC team. The inception report was presented to OPM in

January 2020 and fieldwork was undertaken during February and early March 2020. Two reports were produced as a result of the study: *the draft report for the review of PRDP-III was produced in May 2020* and *the draft report for Plan for Transformative and Inclusive Development (PTID) for Northern Uganda (PRDP-IV) was produced in June 2020*. Activities to validate and finalise the reports were conducted in June 2020, involving stakeholder interviews and consultations.

4th Procurement Integrity Survey

On behalf of the Public Procurement and Disposal Authority (PPDA), EPRC conducted the 4th Procurement Integrity Survey to capture perceptions regarding the changes in the level of corruption. In addition, the study identified vulnerable points in the public procurement process. The fieldwork for the survey was undertaken in February 2020 and data entry concluded in early March 2020. The final report was submitted to PPDA in July 2020.

Financing Agriculture for Agro-Industrialization



At the request of the Permanent Secretary/ Secretary to the Treasury, MoFPED, EPRC conducted a study examining why other developing countries, e.g. Ghana were able to finance their agricultural sector adequately in comparison to Uganda. A policy note titled *“Financing Agriculture for Agro-Industrialization: What lessons can Uganda learn from Ghana?”* was produced responding to the above request.

Value Chain Status Report (VCSR)



At the request of the Private Sector Development Unit (PSDU) of MoFPED, EPRC spearheaded the production of the 2020 *Value Chain Status Report (VCSR)* focusing on *“Transformation for Agro-Industrialisation: A Case of Livestock Value Chain”*. The report serves as an avenue through which the private sector can meaningfully engage with and contribute to developing the identified value chain(s) for sustainable agro-industrialisation. The 2020 Report focused on the livestock sector with special in-depth value chain analysis undertaken for interrelated but different products—beef, dairy and leather. The inception report was developed and presented to MoFPED in April 2020 and a draft report based on desk reviews was submitted to PSDU on June 29, 2020. The data collection, synthesis and validation activities, and the final study report are to be finalised in the next financial year.

Assessment of the Belgian Development Agency’s Skills Development Fund

(In October 2018, EPRC and Global-CAD, Spain won a research grant to undertake an *Action Research on change processes and lessons learned from the implementation of the Skills Development Fund (SDF)*. The grant was funded by the Belgian

Development Agency—ENABEL. The objective was to evaluate the extent to which the skills development fund has contributed to achieving higher relevance, quality, access, effectiveness and efficiency of skills development in Uganda. The research made use of a mix of qualitative research methods and techniques to obtain required evidence-based information. The first part of the fieldwork was undertaken during 2018/19, and report for the first phase of the project was submitted in August 2019. The fieldwork for the second part was undertaken during October–November 2019 and report submitted in March 2020. This 21 month project ended in June 2020.

Addressing Africa’s youth unemployment through industries without smokestacks (IWOSS).

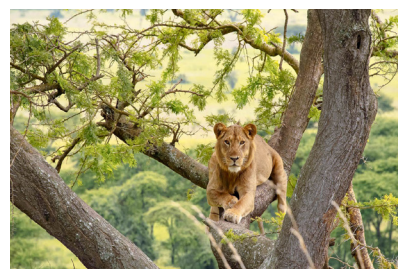


Photo: Uganda Safaris

The study is an initiative focused on assessing the potential of creating formal employment opportunities for the youth by IWOSS. This is a cross-country study, and in Uganda, the study builds explicitly a synthesis on three sectors: agro-processing, horticulture and tourism. EPRC researchers submitted a country working draft study in March 2020. In addition, the working draft study was presented in a two-day virtual workshop organised by Brookings 18–19 June, 2020. Field survey activities started in March 2020 but stalled due to COVID-19 but resumed in July, 2020. The final revised study was launched on February 18, 2021.



Strengthening Education and Learning Systems to deliver a 4IR-Ready Workforce:

The Economic Policy Research Center in partnership with the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET)-Ghana,

engaged in producing high-level analysis and advisory services, around issues such as the Future of Work, the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR), and Strengthen Education and Learning Systems in the 4IR era. In a bid to take this work further, a study on *“Strengthening Education and Learning*

Systems to Deliver a 4IR-Ready Workforce” in Uganda was conducted. The study was part of a six-country project that ACET coordinated on Youth, Employment and Skills (YES) in Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Ethiopia, Niger, Rwanda and Uganda. The project examined the future of work in light of the fast-evolving digital innovations under the fourth industrial revolution (4IR).

Girls Empowering Girls urban social protection programme

EPRC is supporting UNICEF to monitor the Girls Empowering Girls (GEG): urban social protection programme for adolescent girls in Kampala district.



Capacity Building and Technical Support for Policy Research and Analysis

One 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 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

Training Continental National CAADP focal person

In September 2019, EPRC supported the African Union Commission (AUC) Department of Agriculture and Rural Economy in training Continental National CAADP focal persons. The training focused on preparing agricultural transformation reports to the African Union Summit scheduled for January 2020 on progress made for implementing and achieving the Malabo Declaration Goals and Targets. EPRC was also involved in offering technical knowledge and support towards developing a score card and computing methods for reporting on each of the indicators that reflected Malabo Declaration - CAADP commitments.

Capacity strengthening in policy analysis and engagement for UBOS Statisticians

During the period under review, the Centre, with support from UN-WOMEN, built the analytical capacity of ten Uganda Bureau of

Statistics (UBOS) statisticians in how to use gender-disaggregated datasets to undertake policy analysis and develop policy briefs. The instructor-led in-class training was held at EPRC on August 21 – 22, 2019

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:

Formulating the Agricultural Finance Policy and Strategy

By virtue of membership to the Agriculture Finance Platform lead by the Ministry of Finance, Financial Services Directorate, EPRC researchers provided technical support and oversight towards the Development and Implementation of the Agricultural Finance Policy and Strategy. The Centre's researchers were involved in providing the requisite evidence based on the published articles in the Agriculture Finance Yearbook as well as, reviewing consultants' reports that informed the drafting of the policy and strategy. By the end of the reporting period, drafting of the policy and strategy had been finalised and were awaiting the production of the



Regulatory Impact Assessment to justify to Cabinet the need for the Policy.

Facilitation of the Domestic Resource Mobilization

During the period covered by this report, EPRC was appointed to the Sustainable Resource Mobilization Cluster working group charged with reviewing the Public Finance Management Reform (PFM) Matrix; updating the Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy (DRMS); providing progress on the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives (EITI) membership; and updating the Resource enhancement and Accountability Program (REAP). As a member of this working group, EPRC provided technical support in identifying data, drafting concept notes, reviewing PFM documents and progress reports in the implementation of the DRMS. By the end of the reporting period, the DRMS was due for publishing and Cabinet had ratified Uganda's bid to become a candidate in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)

Framing of Budget Framework Papers

EPRC was extensively involved in informing and shaping the Budget Framework Paper

for FY 2020/21. The contribution was made under the auspices of the Private Sector Working Group on Value Chains and Sector Platforms coordinated by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Based on previous research works and experience in value chain studies, EPRC was tasked to guide the discussion on the key issues pending from FY 2019/2020 to inform the framing of the Budget position paper for the FY 2020/2021 centred on the priority Private Sector Program interventions identified within the Third National Development Plan (NDP III).

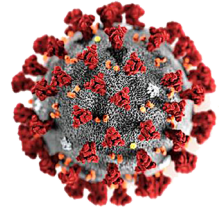
Development of Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP) 2020/21-2024/25

The Centre was engaged by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAF) to spearhead the formulation of the new Tea commodity-specific interventions in the Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP) 2020/21-2024/25. The assignment involved offering subject matter expertise to the ASSP technical committee, reviewing the performance of the Tea commodity during ASSP- 2015/16-2019/20, report writing and presentation of findings to the consultant and the overall ASSP committee.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Ugandan Economy

In the period under review, a team of EPRC researchers were engaged as experts by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

(MoGLSD) to inform and guide the design and implementation of a rapid assessment on the impact of Covid-19 on labour employment and productivity. The actual implementation of the study is to be effected in the next financial year- 2020/2021.



Similarly, on June 25, 2020, EPRC researchers dialogued with the Parliamentary Committee on National Economy on the Impact of Covid-19 on the Ugandan Economy. The committee appreciated the evidence provided by EPRC, especially the practical policy options provided to suit the different sectors and firm sizes. The committee agreed to have more frequent engagement on the dynamics of COVID-19 and on other aspects of Ugandan economy.



Refugee farmer in Nakivale settlement area, Uganda (Photo: UNHCR)

Detailed Matrix on Technical support and Policy Advice to MDAs

Researcher(s) names	Committee/ Taskforce/ Working Group	Purpose/Mandate/Objectives	EPRC's role
Sarah Ssewanyana	Presidential Economic Council	Dealing with strategic national economic policy development. The President or Vice President chairs it and its membership includes 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 Ssewanyana Swaibu Mbowe, Ibrahim Kasirye, Madina Guloba, Francis Mwesigye	Strategic Economic Policy and Management (STEPMAN) Forum, Office of the Secretary to the Treasury. MoFPED	Technical support to towards Fostering a Sustainable Agro-Industrialisation Agenda in Uganda	– Research and evidence gathering – Policy engagement, – Report writing – Results presentation and dissemination – Influencing government policy focus to adopt an industrial approach to agricultural transformation
Ezra Munyambonera & Florence Nakazi	Task Force on the Development of Uganda's National Tea Policy	Develop a National Tea Policy Draft document, Implementation Strategy and Regulatory Impact Assessment	– Provide Technical support – Lead in drafting the policy documents – Participated in the review of the Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020 of MAAIF and the 2020 – 2025 Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan design. This focused on the Tea sector framework implementation plan.
Brian Sserunjogi, Florence Nakazi, Ezra Munyambonera & Mildred Barungi	Agricultural Finance Yearbook 2019 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 standards before submission to the editorial team	– Coordination and planning for production of the book – Assigning and guiding authors – Supervise editing, designing and publishing of the book – Launching and Dissemination of the book
Madina Guloba	Technical committee for NUSAF III	Oversees the activities for the program. The committee reviewed the inception report to conduct the mid-term review to evaluate the development response to displacement impact's project (DRDIP) in refugee settlements and host communities in July 2019.	– Provide technical support and review consultants reports that informed the midterm NUSAF 3 outputs
Madina Guloba	Technical Committee on Green Growth Financing and Investment Plan/ NPA	To develop a National Green growth Financing and Investment Strategy based on the recommendations of a concluded study on "Public Expenditure on Green Growth"	– Provide technical support in developing the strategy and guide the resource person contracted to steer the process. – Review and get feedback from the stakeholders on the draft report – Validate the draft report on Public Expenditure for Green Growth
Tonny Odokonyero	Analysis of maternal health issues - obstetric fistula	Develop a framework to analyze obstetric fistula using DHS data	– Technical support on analyzing obstetric fistula and other maternal healthcare issues

Researcher(s) names	Committee/ Taskforce/ Working Group	Purpose/Mandate/Objectives	EPRC's role
Ibrahim Kasirye and Tony Odokonyero	Inter-ministerial Committee for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) roadmap development	Development of a roadmap for Universal Health Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Contributed to the development of an outline for UHC roadmap and refining the Terms of Reference for the inter-ministerial committee for UHC roadmap development. – Supported the estimation of health costs saved by implementing the Fika Salama Operation by the Uganda Police. – Chaired a session and also made a presentation during the final symposium of the SPEED Consortium held in August 2019
Isaac Shinyekwa, Enoock Bulime and Aida Nattabi	The technical Committee on External Trade in the MTIC	Provide tariff liberalisation analysis to guide the EAC negotiation with the AfCFTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Development of excel sheets for the analysis of the likely effects of the AfCFTA trade liberalization
Corti Paul LAKUMA	Accountability Sector working committees		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provided proposals on policy reform/measure (pension reforms, Government Asset Management and agro-industrialization) to the economic management, resource mobilization and allocation and audit thematic areas. – Supported the Accountability Sector retreat on the identification of the sector's Strategic priorities/issues for inclusion in the NDP III – Adjudicator in the Inter- University debate – During the Accountability Sector Joint Annual Review, held during 1- 5th July, 2019, EPRC researchers were presenters and discussants at the Accountability Sector retreat on the identification of the sector's Strategic priorities/issues for inclusion in the NDP III
Corti Paul Lakuma	Sustainable Resource Mobilization Cluster for MoFPED	Review the Capacity needs for Domestic Resource Mobilization and Debt Sustainability.).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provided technical support and reviewed progress reports and advised on the PFM reform action. – Reviewed the concept notes on the proposal for revenue monitoring by the Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit (BMAU). – Proposed Tax education and harmonization of government data as a key priority of Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy (DRMS)
Corti Paul LAKUMA	NDPIII Interagency working group	To guide the drafting of the NDP III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide technical support – Review consultants reports that informed the drafting of the strategic direction and NDP III programs – Participated in the review of the Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020 of MAAIF and the 2020 – 2025 Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan design. This focused on the Tea sector framework implementation plan.

Communications and Outreach

To 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.

Development of a Marketing and Visibility Strategy

A Marketing and Visibility Strategy that is aligned with the Centre's Medium Strategic Plan 2017/18-2020/21 was designed to provide a framework of how EPRC can position itself and create demand for its research products and services by raising awareness and influencing the way policy actors use evidence in the policy processes. The strategy's overarching goal is to increase the Centre's visibility and uptake of its



research products and services in policy processes and practice by creating demand and providing timely access to its research outputs in a form that is acceptable and recognised by the key stakeholders. The Research and Advisory Committee of the Board sanctioned the strategy in March 2020 pending final ratification by the full Board.

Convening Events

In the FY 2019/2020, the Centre continued to do what we do best: organise timely and stimulating policy debates on the issues that matter with the people who matter. Once again, EPRC proved its convening power and its role as a leading platform for engaging with MDAs, politicians, business leaders, civil society, media, international and national experts, and senior diplomats. Many of our evidence-based research and policy analysis products were disseminated through a wide variety of dissemination formats, ranging from conferences, public panel dialogues, workshops to roundtable discussions. These engagement activities brought us closer to our targeted stakeholders. They 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. A recollection 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.

Policy Dialogues

Inception workshop for the APD-INCLUDE project on productive and decent work

On November 7 2019, EPRC in partnership with the Africa Policy Dialogues (APD) under the Inclusive Development (INCLUDE) Knowledge Platform held an inception workshop to launch a study on "Creating Productive and Decent Work for Youth and Women in Uganda through Agro-industrialisation". The workshop was attended by over 30 participants comprising policy makers (Principal Economist, Parliament of Uganda); key ministries (MGLSD, MAAIF, MoLG, MTIC) and related agencies including Cotton Development Organisation (CDO); Other participants included the National Planning Authority (NPA), Civil Society organizations; Private Sector organizations (NUCAFE); and various representatives from organizations like National Youth Council (NYC), Platform for Labour Action (PLA), Uganda Agribusiness Alliance (UAA), Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) and youth and women engaged in agro-industrialisation. The stakeholders shared their opinions on the project and advised the project team on the critical focus areas and approaches required to address the women and youth unemployment and underemployment problems to achieve the overarching 2040 goal. Some of the key proposals were: Selection of a few critical commodities such as cotton and fish that were likely to create more employment opportunities for women and youth, given the activities involved in these value chains; bridging the skills gap that exists among youth and women if they are to be brought on board for jobs along the agricultural value chains; and modification of the entire labour externalisation structure and guaranteeing immigrant workers safety and skills acquisition to enable their re-integration into the AGI agenda upon return.

Uganda Launch of the Foresight Africa 2020 Report

EPRC in collaboration with the Africa Growth Initiative (AGI) of the Brookings Institution

based in Washington DC, USA, on Thursday, January 23, 2020 successfully conducted the Ugandan launch of the Foresight Africa 2020 report in Kampala. The event was attended by top government officials and high profile policy actors and influencers in Uganda. It was officiated by Prof. Ezra Suruma, Chancellor of Makerere University, and Rosa Malango, Resident Coordinator for Uganda for the United Nations. The presenters and panellists included Dr. Brahim Sangafowa Coulibaly Director of the Africa Growth Initiative at Brookings, Julius Kiiza, professor of political science and public administration at Makerere University; David O. Okello, the Director of noncommunicable diseases at African Centre for Global Health and Social Transformation (ACHEST); and Francis Mangeni, former Director of trade and monetary affairs at the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. The panellists together with the audiences emphasized the importance and challenges of building strong governance structures and institutions, addressing high fertility and mortality rates, and closing the skills gap among the youth. They also highlighted issues such as investing in manufacturing, balancing human capital development and infrastructure development, building systems to govern innovation, and reforming curricula to promote entrepreneurship and attracting and nurturing innovations and innovators.

National Budget Dialogue 2019/2020 on “Sustainability of financing for essential health services”

On February 20, 2020 EPRC collaborated with UNICEF-Uganda to convene a Public Dialogue on the National Budget 2020/21 at the Golf Course Hotel, Kampala. The dialogue was based on the theme “*Sustainability of Financing for Essential Health Services*”. This theme was partly informed by the vision embedded in the new National Development Plan (NDP III), which aims to achieve universal health coverage by expanding access to health care services to lower local government levels whilst increasing access to affordable medicine and health supplies. The

Public Dialogue brought together the various stakeholders in the Public, private, and NGO sectors to examine how essential health services and other key child and adolescent focused interventions can be financed more systematically and sustainably. The panellists included Dr. Viorica Berdaga, Chief of Child Survival and Development at UNICEF in Kampala, Ms. Clara Mira, IMF Resident representative to Uganda, Dr. Timothy Musila a Senior Health planner from the Ministry of Health, and Mr. Kenneth Mugambe, Director budget at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The discussion was guided by a presentation delivered by EPRC’s Director Research Dr. Ibrahim Kasirye titled “*Investing in the Health Sector in FY 2020/2021*” which indicated that the level of external financing to the health sector budget had declined in FY 2020/2021 compared to the previous FY 2019/2020. The panellists and participants agreed that there is a need, among others, to regulate external borrowing to widen the fiscal space for health sector financing, develop an exit strategy to ensure health sector financing when donors withdraw funding and fast-tracking the implementation of the National Health insurance scheme, as well as, bringing the private sector and NGOs on board and interesting them to engage in health financing.

“PRCI Global Lab Launch Webinar

On June 23, 2020, EPRC was blessed to participate and serve as one of the panellists at the global launch webinar of the Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI) project. PRCI is a five-year USAID initiative led by Michigan State University in partnership with IFPRI, Cornell University, and the Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI). A major objective of PRCI is to build the technical training of researchers in select institutes within Africa and Asia, as well as strengthen the institutions within which they work. The Global Lab Launch webinar introduced the research agendas of those in selected African institutes in

Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda and discussed how their work aligns with the three global research topics pursued by PRCI: inclusive agricultural and rural transformation, healthy food systems, and resilience to withstand economic and environmental shocks. The webinar offered the chance for exchange between the selected institutes (ISRA-BAME, EPRC, SUA, and CPEEL), the PRCI team, and USAID colleagues to ensure their research agendas are empirically rigorous and policy-relevant.

Annual Gender Statistical Forum

During the 3rd Annual Gender Statistical Forum held on November 28th 2019 under the theme “*Quality gender statistics for inclusive development in Africa*” EPRC researchers presented two technical papers. One of the papers titled “*The extent of Women’s Economic Empowerment: A multidimensional Approach*” was presented by Madina Guloba. In contrast, Francis Mwesigye presented a paper titled “*An Empirical Investigation into Gender and Time Use in Uganda*”. The forum was convened to purposely launch the 2017/18 Time Use Survey (TUS) report. It was organized through a collaborative arrangement with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC); Makerere University School of Women and Gender Studies (MUK-SWGS), and Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) with support from UN Women.

Policy Dialogue on Gender-Based Violence

EPRC held its first policy dialogue under the UN-WOMEN project on December 12, 2019. The discussion aimed to help the government further reduce gender based violence to negligible levels by bringing to the attention of policy/decision makers the current stand of Uganda regarding her commitment to end gender-based violence and to identify specific actions for consideration.

Dissemination Events

Launch of Agriculture Finance Yearbook 2019

The 9th edition of the Agriculture Finance Yearbook on the theme “Development Financing for Agro-industrialization” was launched on July 11, 2019, in collaboration with the Bank of Uganda and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The book offers in-depth analysis of the sector performance trends, with particular emphasis on interventions to promote agro-industrialisation. It is divided into four chapters that cover: policy and strategy, innovations and research, financing of agricultural value chains, and financing for agricultural investments. The book was launched by Dr. Richard Byarugaba, Director of Finance Bank of Uganda, who represented the Deputy Governor Bank of Uganda. He remarked that an export-led industrialisation strategy was crucial to enhance productivity because firms that face competition on the international market are more likely to enhance productivity growth than enterprises that focus on supplying the domestic market. He advised government to devise strategies that reduce costs of access to international markets by removing trade barriers. On the other hand, the participants noted that the

low financial investment to the agricultural sector was one of the major setbacks to improved agricultural productivity and agro-industrialisation in Uganda. They urged the government to enact an investment act that would create incentives for private equity investments in the agriculture sector.

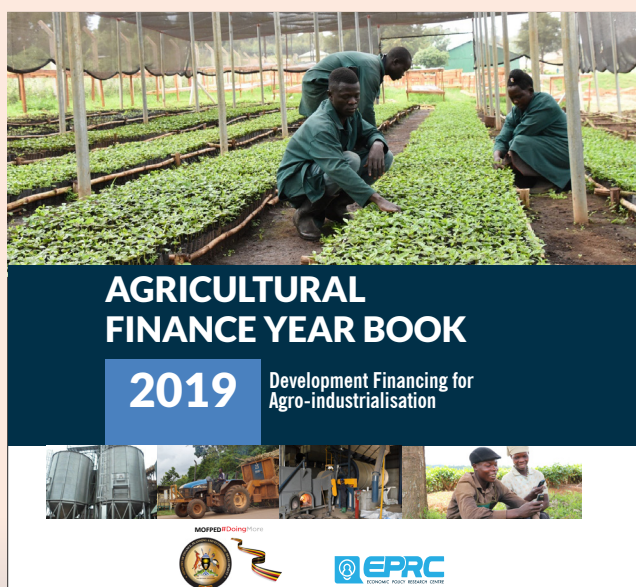
International Conference on “Local government, economic growth and human development: Chinese lessons for African Countries: Kenya and Uganda”

In collaboration with the University of Nottingham, EPRC organised an international workshop on “*Local government, economic growth and human development: Chinese lessons for African Countries: Kenya and Uganda*”. The workshop was held in Jinja, during 9th-10th September 2019 and attracted 20 international participants from China, United Kingdom and select African countries and 8 Uganda participants. EPRC researchers made 3 presentations at the workshop to share findings from a four-year collaborative project titled “*Local government, economic growth and human development: Chinese lessons for Kenya and Uganda*” implemented since 2015 by the University of Nottingham, Peking University, EPRC and Kenyatta University. The project was funded by the Economics and Social Research Council (ESRC) grant

as part of the DFID-ESRC China-Africa Research Programme. This research aimed to examine whether local authorities can accelerate economic growth and development by identifying and evaluating Chinese experiences and exploring whether there are lessons applicable to low-income countries in Africa. The research findings indicated that local governments played a crucial role in China’s remarkable economic growth but local authorities in low-income Africa had not played a similar role. The major difference alluded to the incentives provided to the Chinese counterparts to foster GDP growth by attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), promoting export-oriented manufacturing, and encouraging economic activities that increase local employment level.

Symposium on Partnerships, Policy, and Systems Development for Universal Health Coverage

In August 2019 an International Symposium on Partnerships, Policy, and System Developments for Universal Health Coverage (UHC), was co-organised by EPRC and a consortium of implementing partners of the project on Supporting Policy Engagement for Evidence-Based Decisions for Universal Health (SPEED) led by Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH). Under the theme ‘Partnerships for Health Improvements across Governments, and Societies at Local, National and Global Levels’, the event aimed to “bring experiences, reflections and evidence (both local, national and international) to guide decisions and strategies at various levels for advancing partnerships for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. Over 300 delegates from the East African Community and beyond attended. A key highlight of the symposium was the need to create a collaborative approach to policy and systems development that is co-ordinated, coherent, and effective in the pursuit of UHC. This calls for strengthening of partnerships between researchers and policymakers to advance relevant and implementable solutions that



policymakers can adopt, to ultimately achieve universal health coverage by 2030 (a target of SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages).

BCI Dissemination in Western and Central Uganda

In mid-August 2019, EPRC convened two workshops to disseminate the Business Climate Index (BCI) results following the Western and Central Uganda Business Climate Assessment. The events were held at Kolping Hotel in Masindi and Norena Hotel in Naksongola on August 13 and 16, respectively. The participants of the workshops comprised of policy makers (District chairperson and other Local government officials), farmers and local business community. The purpose of the workshop was to disseminate and obtain feedback on the findings of the research on the business environment in Western and Central Uganda for the different quarters of the year 2018 and the first quarter of 2019. Alongside the BCI report, was the Agro-industrialization (AGI) report, which was also presented with focus on the major crops/enterprises in the selected regions.

The two workshops made observations, recommendations on key issues that emerged from the presentation of BCI. These included the need to undertake research to establish the effect of informal trade between Uganda and Eastern DR Congo on local commodities and how poor infrastructure was hindering market access for agricultural produce. They observed that sugarcane growing in Masindi had become a threat to food security, as farmers were no longer interested in growing food crops other than sugarcane to supply the Kinyara sugar factory. The participants also suggested that security should be one of the indicators captured when computing the business climate index.

Media Coverage

Reaching out to a wide array of audiences to extend the Centre's research products' reach and gain new audiences is of utmost importance to EPRC. During the period under review, EPRC maintained a strong media presence, both on mainstream and social media platforms. These platforms largely contributed to the Centre's visibility. The

Centre generated more than 500 mentions in outlets across Uganda and beyond. Over 35 print media mentions were registered, and most of these were attributions and background information (13 each). In contrast, the centre registered at least 9 direct placements of opinion articles authored by the EPRC researchers.

Most of the print media appearances were in the Daily Monitor newspaper (12), followed by New Vision (8) and the Observer (5). Other print outlets through which researchers featured included the Independent Magazine (4) and the East African Newspaper (2). In terms of broadcast media, the EPRC researchers made about 12 appearances on both radio and television programmes. The centre also continued to use the electronic newsletter as a regular communication tool to promote significant and specific issues and events. In total, ten issues of the monthly organisational newsletter were produced and widely circulated during the reporting period. The following are selected newspaper articles published during the reporting period by EPRC researchers:



EPRC Commentaries published by the press

No.	Author(s)	Title of Article	Date Published	Media
1	Paul Corti Lakuma	Delays in Uganda's oil	February 20, 2020	The Independent Magazine
2	Blessing Atwine	Is Uganda Education system increasing social divide?	January 27, 2020	Daily Monitor
3	Aida Natabbi Kibirige	Cabinet approves signing of several air service agreements	January 22, 2020	Daily Monitor
4	Mildred Barungi	Allocating resources to Agriculture: Issues to consider by the Ministry of Agriculture in the process of developing the Third Sector Strategic Plan	January 17, 2020	The Independent magazine
5	Florence Nakazi	Customary land registration will boost farmers access to credit	January 15, 2020	Daily Monitor
6	Jossey Muhangi	Will Uganda afford the cost of settling Human Wildlife Conflict?	January 15, 2020	Daily Monitor
7	Geoffrey Kasumba	Uganda's take home from the UN Climate change conference in Madrid	January 8, 2020	Daily Monitor
8	Brian Sserunjogi	2019 Movable Property Act: Reasons why its benefits, Including boosting SME access to credit, are likely to be derailed	The Independent, December 6, 2019	The Independent
9	Enock Bulime	EAC countries can boost domestic revenue mobilisation efforts	November 18, 2019	Daily Monitor
10	Justine Luwedde	How intellectual property rights can boost innovation in Uganda?	November 18, 2019	Daily Monitor
11	Enock Bulime	Good economic (fiscal) outcomes depend on both rules and norms	November 9 - November 15, 2019	The East African
12	Blessing Atwine	Why Uganda is struggling to attain middle income status	November 5, 2019	Daily Monitor
13	Enock Bulime	Rebased Economy or not, it may take a while to reduce Uganda's deficit and debt	November 2 - November 8, 2019	The East African
14)	Enock Bulime	Why reducing Uganda's budget deficit and debt could delay	October 31, 2019	The New Vision,
15	Enock Bulime	With the EAMU protocol, does Uganda need a national debt limit, too?	October 26 - November 1, 2019	The East African,
16	Enock Bulime	Is Uganda debt sustainability at risk?	October 24, 2019	Daily Monitor
17	Nathan Sunday	Decline in agric output per worker likely to worsen poverty levels	October 22, 2019 October 9, 2019	The Independent New Vision
18	Nathan Sunday	Will Islamic banking meet the expectations of Ugandans?	October 7, 2019	New Vision
19	Denis Arop	Challenges facing SMEs	October 4, 2019	Daily Monitor
20	Tonny Odokonyero	Invest in Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) to end malaria	September 23, 2019	New Vision
21	Ezra Munyambonera	Uganda needs wider pension reforms	September 13, 2019 September 3, 2019	The Independent New Vision
22	Kahunde Rehema	Private Public Solutions to the bodaboda menace in Kampala	August 26, 2019	New Vision
23	Mildred Barungi	Accelerate solar access to uplift the status of rural women	August 24, 2019	New vision
24	Kahunde Rehema	Limitations to the Landlord-Tenant Bill	August 24, 2019	New vision
25	Reagan Mugume	Leveraging Boda Boda Platforms	August 14, 2019	The Independent
26	Aida Natabbi Kibirige	Should we scrap Education requirements for KCCA councilors	August 5, 2019	New Vision
27	Medard Kakuru	Overcoming the hurdle of Foot and Mouth Disease	July 30, 2019	New Vision

Foresight Uganda

Since 2018 EPRC has been producing a Foresight Uganda policy package to help policymakers, government bureaucrats, development partners, private sector and civil society stay ahead of the trends and developments impacting the country in the upcoming year. The Foresight Uganda is a series of commentaries, opinion articles and reports on a broad range of topics; in which EPRC alerts readers about key issues that will be important for Uganda. During December 2019-January 2020, the following articles/opinion pieces were produced.

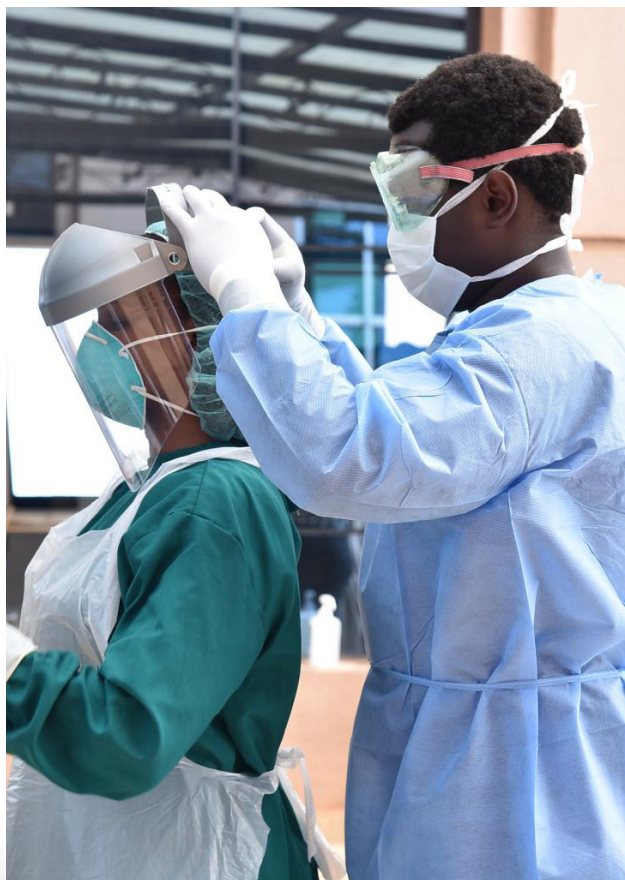
List of Foresight Articles

	Topic	Authors
1	What Explains the Drastic Fall in Coffee, Maize and Beans exports between FY 2017/18 and 2018/19	Rehema Kahunde
2	What are the likely impact of delays in making the Final Investment decision regarding oil in Uganda	Paul Corti Lakuma
3	Will the middle income dream be realized in the next national development plan (NDP)?	Tonny Odokonyero and Blessing Atwine
4	The Economic Implications of the forthcoming 2021 elections?	Paul Corti Lakuma
5	How will the incessant strain in relations between Uganda and Rwanda affect trade?	Justine Luwedde
6	Is Uganda ready to exploit the benefits from the AfCFTA?	Enock Bulime And Isaac M.B. Shinyekwa
7	How does Uganda stand to benefit if guns fall silent in South Sudan?	Isaac M.B. Shinyekwa and Enock Bulime
8	Can Uganda afford new local government administrative units?	Aida Kibirige
9	Can Uganda borrow more due to its “new favourable” debt position?	Nathan Sunday and Ezra Munyambonera
10	Did the president neglect the unequal welfare distribution and youth unemployment in his end of year speech?	Brian Sserunjogi
11	Will Uganda be able to afford the cost of settling human-wildlife conflicts?	Jossy Muhangi

Online Presence

The Centre commenced on the process of rejuvenating and enhancing the EPRC website and portal as channels of information sharing and platforms of expanding strategic partnerships to boost EPRC's capacity and reach, and leverage on the Centre's contributions to Uganda's economy and beyond. Terms of reference were developed and the procurement of a consultant per the PPDA guidelines was embarked on up to the stage of contracting. A consultant firm Hostalite Ltd, was recommended for award of contract, however, the contract signing and commencement of work was affected by the outbreak of Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown. Implementation of the contract and finalisation of the re-development was pushed to the next financial year.

The Centre continued to embrace social media as a platform for sharing its research products and engaging with its stakeholders. Over 8000 persons were reached on Facebook and our Tweets were seen by about 7500 persons. In terms of policy-oriented blogs, thirteen (13) blogs were posted by Researchers as per the table below.



Blogs Published in FY 2019/20

Date	Author(s)	Title	Location Posted
5 Jun, 2020	Nathan Sunday	COVID-19 and subsequent preventive measures have had the largest impact on MSMEs	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/808-covid-19-and-subsequent-preventive-measures-have-had-the-largest-impact-on-msmes
19 May, 2020 and 27 May, 2020	Paul Corti Lakuma and Nathan Sunday	Impact of COVID-19 on micro, small, and medium businesses in Uganda	https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2020/05/19/impact-of-covid-19-on-micro-small-and-medium-businesses-in-uganda/?utm_campaign=brookings-comm&utm_medium=email&utm_content=88511391&utm_source=hs_email and https://includeplatform.net/news/impact-of-covid-19-on-micro-small-and-medium-businesses-in-uganda/
May 15, 2020	Regean Mugume	Why gender matters in Uganda's response to COVID-19 Pandemic	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/805-why-gender-matters-in-uganda-s-response-to-covid-19-pandemic
May 7, 2020	Enock Bulime,	Implications of the COVID-19 containment measures for Uganda's Public Debt	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/804-implications-of-the-covid-19-containment-measures-for-uganda-s-public-debt-2
April 28, 2020	Enock Bulime,	Behavioural responses are vital for containing COVID-19 spread	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/792-behavioural-responses-are-vital-for-containing-covid-19-spread-2
February 3, 2020	Justine Luwedde	How will the strained relations between Uganda and Rwanda affect trade?	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/777-how-will-the-strained-relations-between-uganda-and-rwanda-affect-trade
January 27, 2019	Brian Sserunjogi	Did the president neglect the unequal welfare distribution and youth unemployment in his end of year speech?	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/773-unequal-welfare-distribution
January 17, 2020	Aida K. Nattabi	Can Uganda afford new local government administrative units?	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/770-can-uganda-afford-new-local-government-administrative-units
November 15, 2019	Enock Bulime and Ezra Munyambonera	Good economic (fiscal) outcomes depend on both rules and social norms	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/749-good-economic-fiscal-outcomes-depend-on-both-rules-and-social-norms
November 15, 2019	Aida K. Nattabi	Mind-set Change: will NDP III get it right?	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/748-mind-set-change-will-ndp-iii-get-it-right-2
November 12, 2019	Justine Luwedde	How can Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) boost innovation in Uganda?	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/743-how-can-intellectual-property-rights-iprs-boost-innovation-in-uganda
October 28, 2019	Enock Bulime	Why reducing Uganda's budget deficit and debt could delay	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/734-why-reducing-uganda-s-budget-deficit-and-debt-could-delay
October 22, 2019	Medard Kakuru	Use Agri-Environment Schemes to curb environmental degradation	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/732-use-agri-environment-schemes-to-curb-environmental-degradation
October 7, 2019	Blessing Atwine	Can Public Private Partnerships solve Uganda's Youth employment challenge?	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/728-can-public-private-partnerships-solve-uganda-s-youth-employment-challenge
October 7, 2019	Nathan Sunday	Sextortion in Uganda: Form of corruption exacerbating gender inequality.	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/727-sextortion-in-uganda-form-of-corruption-exacerbating-gender-inequality
September 30, 2019	Rehema Kahunde	Private public Solutions to the Bodaboda Menace	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/724-private-public-solutions-to-the-boda-boda-menace-in-uganda

Date	Author(s)	Title	Location Posted
September 17, 2019	Aida Natabbi &Regean Mugume	The impact of DRC joining the EAC bloc: Harnessing regional trade benefits	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/711-the-impact-of-drc-joining-the-eac-bloc-harnessing-regional-trade-benefits
September 4, 2019	Ibrahim Kasirye	How will other development agendas affect SDG implementation in Africa?	http://southernvoice.org/how-will-other-development-agendas-affect-sdg-implementation-in-africa/
July 24, 2019	Nathan Sunday	How can the agricultural finance policy spur agricultural lending in Uganda?	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/707-how-can-the-agricultural-finance-policy-spur-agricultural-lending-in-uganda
July 24, 2019	Rehema Kahunde	How should Uganda improve its nutritional outcomes?	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/706-how-should-uganda-improve-its-nutritional-outcomes
July 24, 2019	Regean Mugume	How Inclusive Is The Uganda National Budget?	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/708-how-inclusive-is-the-uganda-national-budget
July 24, 2019	Medard Kakuru	Overcoming the hurdle of Foot and Mouth Diseases	https://www.eprcug.org/press-media/eprc-in-the-news/709-overcoming-the-hurdle-of-foot-and-mouth-disease
July 24, 2019	Justine Luwedde	Does Uganda stand to benefit from the African Continental Free Trade Agreement?	https://www.eprcug.org/blog/705-does-uganda-stand-to-benefit-from-the-african-continental-free-trade-agreement



Production & Circulation of Research Products

In order to stimulate and increase stakeholder demand and uptake of EPRC products and services, we continued to make the Centre's research outputs and products available to our stakeholders by creating new content and revitalizing old content in both digital and print forms as appropriate. We packaged, designed and widely distributed the following EPRC products in forms that were accessible to our stakeholders. The distribution was facilitated by developing a distribution plan for specific studies and/ or projects with defined target audiences and mediums to reach them and the organizational electronic newsletter. The newsletter was produced monthly and eleven issues were generated and circulated between July and June 2020 to subscribers within the Centre's mailing database.

The published products were also submitted to libraries and repositories, namely [Africa Portal](#), [IDEAS/RePEc](#), [AgEcon](#), [MAK-IR](#) and [ACBF virtual library](#) for wider reach and access. The Centre also signed a new agreement with ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics, the world's largest information centre for economic literature, online as well as offline. The agreement is for archiving and inclusion of the EPRC publications into the ZBW Digital Archive.

In addition, to increasing accessibility of EPRC publications via their search engine EconBiz, the partnership will avail digital preservation and citability of EPRC's digital documents as well as broad dissemination of EPRC publications via databases and search engines. The EPRC research series are now archived at: <http://zbw.eu/econis-archiv/handle/11159/3556?locale-attribute=en> and download statistics are available at: <https://zbw.eu/econis-archiv/zbw-stats-jspui/esstatistics/11159/3556?locale=en>

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 2019 – June 2020 are presented below.

Journal articles and book chapters published in fy2019/20

	Names (s)	Title	Journal or Book details
1)	Isaac Shinyekwa	Constraints and Opportunities for Innovation in Green Enterprises: Implications for Land and Water Management in Rural Uganda	Book Chapter published in C. Atewamba and D. Yong Ngondjeb (eds.), <i>Inclusive Green Growth: Challenges and Opportunities for Green Business in Rural Africa</i> , Springer: June 2020 https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-44180-7#about
2)	Florence Nakazi and Nathan Sunday	The Effect of Commercial Banks' Agricultural Credit on Agricultural growth in Uganda	African Journal of Economic Review, Vol. 8 No. 1 (2020): pages 162-175 https://www.ajol.info/index.php/ajer/article/view/192203
3)	Sunday Nathan, Mukisa Ibrahim, and Mwebaze Tom	Determinants of Non-Performing Loans in Uganda's Commercial Banking Sector	African Journal of Economic Review, Vol. 8 No. 1 (2020): pages 26-47
4)	Corti Paul Lakuma	Oil Wealth in Uganda: Analysis of the Macroeconomic Policy Framework	Book Chapter published in <i>Oil Wealth and Development in Uganda and Beyond: Prospects, Opportunities, and Challenges</i> , Leuven University Press: June 2020 https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvt9k690.12
5)	Isaac M.B. Shinyekwa Corti P. Lakuma Martin L. Munu	The Effects of Regional Economic Communities on Industrialization: The Case of COMESA	African Development Review, Vol 31 No.4 (2019):pages 506-516 https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1467-8268.12407?af=R
6)	Joseph Mawejje and Corti Lakuma	Macroeconomic effects of Mobile money: evidence from Uganda	Financial Innovation Journal Vol 5. No 23. (2019)
7)	Corti Paul Lakuma, Robert Marty and Fred Muhumuza	Financial inclusion and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) growth in Uganda	Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Vol 8, 15 (2019). https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s13731-019-0110-2
8)	Swaibu Mbowa, Tonny Odokonyero, Annet Adong, James Tinker, David Levine	Encouraging Fertilizer Adoption through Risk-Free Sales Offers.	Working Paper Series # 90, July 2019. Centre for Effective Global Action (CEGA), UC Berkeley. https://escholarship.org/uc/item/567576vh .

Some of the research products published in-house in fy2019/20

Pub#	Author(s)	Title	Date	Pub#	Author(s)	Title	Date
POLICY NOTE							
3	Brian Sserunjogi	Financing Agriculture for Agro-Industrialization: What lessons can Uganda learn from Ghana	March 2020	118	Florence Nakazi, Molly Nina Acan, Shallon Niwagaba, and Stella Nassolo	Constraints to girls' access to secondary education in Uganda	April 2020
RESEARCH SERIES							
154	Aida K. Nattabi Justine Luwedde Isaac M.B. Shinyekwa	Import Substitution: How do increased import duties in Uganda affect trade revenues and welfare	June 2020	117	Florence Nakazi	Will the lack of gender disaggregated statistics affect the attainment of energy SDGs in Uganda?	March 2020
153	Isaac M.B. Shinyekwa, Enock N.W. Bulime, Aida Nattabi Kibirige	Africa Continental Free Trade Area: The potential revenue, trade and welfare effects for the East African Community	June 2020	116	Nathan Sunday, Regean Mugume and Madina Guloba	Delayed access to justice for sexual gender based violence in Uganda and implications for gender SDG targets.	March 2020
152	Alemayehu Gedda, Nathan Sunday, Rehema Kahunde, Ezra Munyambonera, Paul Lakuma, Brian Sserunjogi, Isaac Shinyekwa	Export and Import Price Elasticity for Uganda: An Empirical Analysis	June 2020	115	Aida Kibirige NATTABI and Corti Paul LAKUMA	Did the East Africa Community's Common External Tariff (CET) help Uganda diversify its export products? HOT!	March 2020
151	Tony Odokonyero and Swaibu Mbowa	Potential Outcomes from adopting both Agriculture Technology and Extension on Productivity in Uganda	December 2019	114	Nathan Sunday, Noor Namiyonga, Diana Byanjeru	What drives the high rates of early Child Marriages in Uganda?	February 2020
150	Madina M. Guloba, Tonny Odokonyero, Marios Obwona, & Patrick Olowo	Uganda's Vision of Middle Income Status: Why the growth of the middle class matters?	November 2019	113	Florence Nakazi and Ezra Munyambonera	Why Uganda continues to earn less from its Tea Exports?	February 2020
POLICY BRIEFS				112	Rehema Kahunde and SundayNathan	Does institutional quality matter for domestic revenue mobilization in Uganda?	January 2020
122	Madina Guloba and Sunday Nathan	Enforcement of human trafficking laws: Implications for gender and labour externalization in Uganda.	May 2020	111	Madina Guloba (UN WOMEN)	Women participation in political processes in Uganda: Evidence from National Survey	December 2019
121	Medard Kakuru	The burden of physical gender based violence in Uganda	May 2020	110	Mildred Barungi (UN WOMEN)	Women's Economic Empowerment in Uganda: Inequalities and Implications	December 2019
120	Florence Nakazi	Adolescent motherhood and maternal deaths in Uganda	May 2020	109	Gemma Ahaibwe (UN WOMEN)	Perceptions on violence against women in Uganda : Implication for policy	December 2019
119	Regean Mugume	How can Uganda address gender data gaps in the land sector?	April 2020	108	Enock Bulime	Fiscal Policy and Public Debt Sustainability in Uganda	July 2019
				107	Gemma Ahaibwe Sheila Depio	How effective is the self-reliance agenda in Uganda's refugee response	July 2019
				106	Dablin Mpuuga, Swaibu Mbowa and Tonny Odokonyero	Limited health insurance coverage amidst upsurge of non-communicable diseases in Uganda	June 2019

Pub#	Author(s)	Title	Date
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FACT SHEETS

25	EPRC	The PIMA Strategic Commodities	June 2020
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BUSINESS CLIMATE INDEX
Special Issue

	Corti Paul Lakuma, Nathan Sunday, Brian Sserunjogi, Rehema Kahunde and Ezra Munyambonera	How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted Ugandan businesses? Results from a business climate survey	May 2020
28	Brian Sserunjogi, Nathan Sunday, Corti Paul Lakuma and Rehema Kahunde	Above normal rainfall dampen business climate environment; future outlook remains subdued	October–December 2019
27	Rehema Kahunde, Nathan Sunday, Corti Paul Lakuma and Brian Sserunjogi	Recovery in the manufacturing sector improves the business climate; but future outlook remains downcast	July–September 2019
26	Nathan Sunday, Rehema Kahunde, Corti Paul Lakuma and Brian Sserunjogi	Above potential performance in agriculture and service sectors improve business climate with a more optimistic future	April–June 2019
25	Corti Paul Lakuma, Nathan Sunday, Brian Sserunjogi and Rehema Kahunde	Closure of the Rwanda–Uganda Border and the delay in seasonal rainfall affects the business climate	January–March 2019

UGANDA ECONOMY TODAY

3	Medard Kakuru, Reagan Mugume, Rehema Kahunde, Sunday Nathan, Aida Nattabi and Justine Luwedde	The Uganda Economy Today Issue 3	October–December 2019
2	Medard Kakuru, Reagan Mugume, Rehema Kahunde, Sunday Nathan, Aida Nattabi and Justine Luwedde	The Uganda Economy Today Issue 2	July–Sept 2019
1	Medard Kakuru, Reagan Mugume, Rehema Kahunde, Sunday Nathan, Aida Nattabi, Justine Luwedde	The Ugandan Economy Today Issue 1	April–June 2019

Pub#	Author(s)	Title	Date
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CLIENT REPORTS

1	UN WOMEN	An Empirical Investigation of Gender and Time Use in Uganda	November 2019
2	UN WOMEN	The extent of women empowerment in Uganda: A multidimensional approach	
3	Public Procurement and Disposal Authority (PPDA)	The Fourth Procurement Integrity Survey Report	June 2020
4	Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)	Review of the Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP III) for Northern Uganda,	
5	Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)	Plan for Transformative and Inclusive Development (PTID) for Northern Uganda (PRDP-IV)	
6		Feasibility of fiscal policies for prevention of diet-related non-communicable diseases in Uganda	
7	Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)	Ensuring sustainable livelihoods for poverty reduction in Uganda	
8	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED)	Public Investment Management for Agro-Industry (PIMA): Market Research Studies on Strategic Commodities	

EVENT PROCEEDINGS

1	EPRC	A communique on the National Dialogue on the Sustainability of Essential Health services in Uganda. It the proceedings and recommendations of the Public Dialogue on the National Budget 2020/21 held on February 20, 2020, at the Golf Course Hotel, Kampala.	March 2020
2	EPRC	Proceedings Report on Uganda Launch of Foresight Africa 2020 held on January 23, 2020, at Kampala Serena Hotel	February 2020

All the above-listed publications are available at: <http://www.eprcug.org>

Strengthening & Diversifying the EPRC Resource Base

In the year 2019-20, EPRC management strived to enhance organisational effectiveness and efficiency as well as interventions geared towards mobilising additional resources through some of the following activities.

Staff Management and Transitions

In this reporting period, the Centre witnessed three staff exits and acquired two new staff. The staff who separated from the Centre are Ms. Peace Nagawa, Knowledge Management Specialist who left in August 2019, Mr. Martin Munu, Research Analyst who left in September 2019; and lastly, Ms. Gemma Ahaibwe, Research Fellow who left in February 2020. The two new staff who joined are Ms. Blessing Atwine and Mr. Enock Bulime; both assumed office in August 2019 as Volunteer Research Associates. Later on, in February 2020, Enock Bulime was awarded a two-year contract as a Young Professional, after receiving an Award of Excellence for being the best Master of Arts in Economics Student during the Second Session of the 70th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University held on 15th January 2020.

In-house Staff Capacity Strengthening

The Centre was able through its institutional networks to attract training and capacity-strengthening opportunities for its staff. New researchers were trained in research methods including policy analysis and development of policy briefs; assessment of macroeconomic impacts of social protection using SAM and CGE Approach; Panel data econometrics; and causal Inference for complex observational data using Stata. Several researchers were also able to benefit from the Webinar training series organised under the USAID- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy, Research, Capacity and Influence (PRCI). One of the webinars on *Using Mobile Phones for Survey Research in the Time of Covid-19 Lockdowns and beyond* highlighted the importance, challenges, methods and

constraints to using phones to collect data for research purposes. The other webinar focused on: *Integrating gender in Policy research and Outreach* under module 1. In contrast, module 2 focused on practical ways in which participants would better integrate gender in their PRCI research and outreach project, and in their work more broadly. Other specialised trainings attended included: Trade Facilitation by UNCTAD, Making the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) work sponsored and executed by The African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), and Financial Management and Results Based Training facilitated by the UN Women.

A tailor-made training session on the public procurement and disposal act was organised for all EPRC staff to improve their compliance and understanding of stakeholders' roles and responsibilities in the procurement process, common challenges in the procurement process, and contract management. A half-day training and sensitisation workshop was also organised to equip staff with records management skills, archiving and educating them about the new EPRC Records, Archives Management and Procedures Policy.

Internship Program

The Centre continued to offer internship placement opportunities for both graduate and undergraduate students to support the capacity-building efforts of local Universities. In 2020, the Centre took on two Masters' interns from the College of Business and Management Sciences (COBAMS) of Makerere University. The interns who completed their programme at the end of August 2020 gained skills in research methodologies, presentation and communication to wide audiences and participated in several EPRC dissemination and policy engagement activities. The interns were also supported in preparation and peer review of their Masters dissertations. These included: *Intertemporal Approach to*

the Current Account Balance: a Case Study of Uganda by Ambrose Ogwang; *Effect of Financial Innovations on Economic Growth in Eastern Africa a Panel Data Analysis* by Kyewaalabye Mudasiyu. Both dissertations were presented and discussed during EPRC internal research seminars. In addition, in February 2020, the Centre took on eight (8) undergraduate interns, six of whom were assigned to the Research function and one to the Finance Office, and another to the Human Resources and Administration unit. However, due to the covid 19 mitigation measures the programme was initially halted in March 2020 and intermittently suspended.

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. Notable among them were:

Requests for expert advice and contribution to research and policy processes

- I. The Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), the main multilateral economic and commercial cooperation platform of the Islamic world, contacted EPRC for input to their ongoing study on "Improving the Regulatory Framework for Industry, Research and Development (R&D) and Innovation Ecosystem in the OIC Member States".
- II. World Food Programme Regional Evaluation Unit requested EPRC support in identifying institutional evaluation capacity gaps within the region's

national evaluation landscapes. This information was required to aid in the process of developing a Regional Evaluation Partnership Strategy covering eight countries, including Uganda.

- III. Request from On Think Tanks, a leading global platform dedicated to the study and support of evidence-informed policy and research centres to avail information for updating their Open Think Tank Directory
- IV. Request from UNICEF's Office of Research – Innocenti to do a scoping of evidence organisations that work in their countries of focus and in their topics of interest in order to support their work and strengthen research partnerships.
- V. Request from UIA Senior Investment Executive, Investment Promotion and Secretary to the sectoral committee on transport and logistics to partner in formulating key policies for the post COVID - 19 economic recovery.

International presence

- I. Consortium meeting on a new project - Strengthening Evidence use in Development Impact (SEDI) July 2019 Accra Ghana (Gemma Ahaibwe and Mildred Barungi)
- II. "Leveraging Innovation to increase Regional Trade: The case of COMESA" (Isaac Shinyekwa) at the 6th COMESA Research Forum (September 2019: Nairobi Kenya)
- III. African Union Department of Agriculture and Rural Economy Workshop to draft the CAADP Scorecard report (Isaac Shinyekwa, September 2019).
- IV. Presenting the country concept note for the project on Addressing Africa's youth unemployment through industries without smokestacks, Nairobi Kenya (Madina Guloba and Sarah Ssewanyana, September, 2019)

- V. Two EPRC researchers attended the International Autumn School on Applied Industrial Policy in Ankara Turkey (Aida K. Nattabi and Rehema Kahunde, October 2019).
- VI. Child Poverty in Africa workshop (Ibrahim Kasirye, October 2019).
- VII. Presenting the country inception report for the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) Youth Employment and Skills (YES) Project (Madina Guloba ,Accra Ghana, Oct 2019)
- VIII. Twenty-Fifth Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS), which was held in Libreville, Gabon, from 4 to 8 November 2019 (Francis Mwesigye).
- IX. Supported the UN-WOMEN's Mid Term Review (MTR) of the Making Every Woman and Girl Count (MEWGC) Programme-New York (Mildred Barungi, 9-18 November 2019)
- X. "The Green growth paradigm: What has worked so far, lessons learnt" Regional Conference on Economic Transformation, Decent Work and Green Economy organised by the Fredrich Ebert Foundation (Madina Guloba, Accra Ghana, November 2019).
- XI. AERC Biannual Research Workshop 1-5 December 2019, Nairobi Kenya (Nathan Sunday)
- XII. Experts from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) on November 29, 2019, held a consultative meeting with EPRC and selected experts in women's economic empowerment in Uganda.
- XIII. An EPRC Research Fellow, Dr Madina Guloba served as a panellist at the 5th Raising Dialogue, New Delhi, India (January 2020: Madina Guloba)
- XIV. The Director of Research, Ibrahim Kasirye, was part of the panel during

the Southern Voice Global Launch of the State of the SDGs Report in Geneva, Switzerland (January 2020).

- XV. Two EPRC researchers attended the AERC Senior Policy Seminar held in Abuja, Nigeria, under the theme Agriculture and Food Policies for Nutrition in Africa (Mildred Barungi and Francis Mwesigye: March 2020).

Resources Mobilisation

Resource mobilisation and diversification continued to be a key priority of the Centre in the reporting period. Efforts to increase resources for research and other programmes of the Centre continued throughout the period by reaching out to current, prospective and previous donors. The efforts involved increasing collaborations and partnerships for resource mobilisation with other think tanks in the region and beyond. In the period under review, the centre attracted several grants from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). These include:

- A 3-year research grant to implement a project on *“Developing a package of effective regulatory interventions for healthier food environments in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda”* in collaboration with African Population and Health Research Center (Kenya) and IFAKARA Health Institute (Tanzania). This project’s overarching goal is to identify context-relevant priority actions that promote healthy food consumption patterns and facilitate knowledge translation pathways to prevent nutrition-related NCDs in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.
- Another 3-year research grant worth CA\$ 648,900 to examine the policies, measures, and strategies to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19

on households and small and medium-sized enterprises. The project is also looking at the interventions required to re-activate resilience of the Ugandan economy post-COVID-19. Using quantitative and qualitative methods, it will examine how the pandemic has affected business operations, the coping mechanisms businesses have adopted, and the support they require. The study will generate country-specific data and evidence-based research on the immediate, short-, medium-, and long-term impacts of the pandemic, mitigation measures, and policy responses. The findings will feed directly into ongoing policy processes to find solutions to the problems caused by the pandemic in Uganda.

- A two-year grant for *“Addressing Africa’s youth unemployment through skills for industries without smokestacks”* implemented in collaboration with the Brookings Institution and other research institutions in Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa. This project seeks to inform strategies and policies on youth employment by examining the job creation potential of industries without smokestacks, such as agriculture, the service sector, tourism, and information and communication technology-based services. It is intended to assess the ecosystem and employment creation potential of these industries as well as the skills required, with a focus on soft skills, digital skills, and how countries can address skills mismatches.

The Centre was also able to attract financial and technical support for research activities from various UN agencies. These included the UN Women for the Empirical Investigation of Gender and Time Use in Uganda and the project on technical back-stopping for generation of gender analysis knowledge products; FAO for the in-depth study on child

labour in the livestock sector among pastoral communities: A case study of Karamoja Sub-Region in North Eastern Uganda; and UNICEF for the design and evaluation of the Girls Empowering Girls urban social protection programme for adolescent girls in Kampala implemented by the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA).

Efforts were also made to attract funding from existing partnerships with other think tanks and knowledge platforms. In September 2019, EPRC was able to attract funding from the INCLUDE Platform-African Policy Dialogue Initiative for a two-year programme to generate and share evidence on opportunities, sources of productive and decent employment for youth and women in Uganda, and effective strategies to promote job creation along the strategic agro-industrialisation value chains. Similarly, EPRC drew on its long-standing relationship with the Africa Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) Ghana to attract funding and technical support to undertake a study on “Youth Employment and Skills (YES): Education and Learning systems to deliver a 4IR in Uganda”. The study commenced in October 2019 and was expected to end in September 2020.

The Centre also continued to initiate and maintain contact with academic and international organisations that share and support common goals. The tactic was used to share expertise and mobilise resources for conducting research and influencing policy processes. To this end, the EPRC partnered with a consortium of six organisations led by Oxford Policy Management to attract funding from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom. The five-year programme named SEDI (Strengthening Evidence Use for Development Impact) seeks to increase the use of evidence by policymakers in Uganda, Ghana, and Pakistan to contribute to more efficient and effective decision-making by partner governments. To achieve this, SEDI is working with country leads such as EPRC

in Uganda to ensure effective engagement and sustainable legacy for the programme by engaging with cross-sectoral stakeholders and working with sectoral partners to ‘pool’ knowledge, learning and relationships across the selected sector.

We also note with appreciation the other partners who continued to offer technical and financial support to the Centre to implement its research agenda and programmes. These include USAID’s Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS) for the capacity strengthening for policy research and influence in pursuit of sustainable, inclusive, and healthy agri-food system transformation, under the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI); The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a study on the Effects of Currency Fluctuations on Borrowing and Investment Decisions by Micro Small and Medium Enterprises in Developing Countries: The case study of Uganda, Kenya and Ghana; the Belgian Development Agency (Enabel) for the action research on the change processes and lessons learned of the implementation of the project Skills Development Fund (SDF), in Uganda.

By the close of the FY 2019/2020, several proposals had been submitted by EPRC and were under consideration by local and international agencies. Details are below:

- (i) ***“The Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Business Enterprises in Uganda: From Mitigation to the Promotion of Post-Pandemic Resilience”*** this a proposed 3-year project under advanced consideration by International Development Research Centre (IDRC)-Nairobi. This proposal was in response to the IDRC rapid response call for proposals: Evidence to mitigate socio-economic impacts and promote recovery from COVID-19
- (ii) ***“Agricultural Sector Linkages with oil and gas sector”***; this is under consideration by the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU).
- (iii) ***Demographic Change and Migration Impacts on Secondary Cities—the Case of Jinja***, which is under consideration by the local World Bank office.
- (iv) ***Assessment of Informal Sector in Uganda***; this is under consideration
- (v) ***“Understanding Gender-Based Violence Associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic in Uganda”*** under consideration by the Ministry of Labour Gender and Social Development.
- (vi) ***Human Capital Development Project*** under consideration by the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC).
- (vii) In June 2020, EPRC in collaboration with the School of Economics, University of Nairobi-Kenya, Institute of Tropical and Forest Conservation in Bwindi-Uganda, Center of Excellence in Biodiversity & Natural Resource Management at the University of Rwanda, and Amsterdam Centre for World Food Studies in VU University, Amsterdam submitted a proposal ***“Enhancing urban food security through development of urban agriculture in cities of Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda”*** to IDRC Ottawa-Canada.



Statement of Financial Position as at 30th June 2020

DESCRIPTION	NOTES	AS AT 30.06.2020	AS AT 30.06.2019
ASSETS			
Non- Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	3	1,379,103,148	1,477,789,046
Intangible Assets		6,983,004	2,281,907
		1,386,086,151	1,480,070,953
Current Assets			
Receivables	4	116,745,433	188,948,102
Investment in Treasury Bills	5	2,674,290,000	1,522,050,000
Cash & Cash Equivalent	6	6,154,259,220	6,509,322,498
		8,945,294,653	8,220,320,600
TOTAL ASSETS		10,331,380,805	9,700,391,553
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Share Holders' Funds	7	1,614,640,958	2,484,274,627
Revaluation Reserve		486,621,785	486,621,785
Strategic Reserve	8	6,410,952,888	5,789,906,326
		8,514,215,631	8,760,802,738
Liabilities			
Deferred Revenue Grants	9	569,812,430	12,600,000
Capital Grant		13,006,471	19,819,661
Payables	10	1,234,346,276	907,169,158
		1,817,165,174	939,588,816
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		10,331,380,805	9,700,391,553

The accounting policies and notes set out on 16 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 12 to 23 were approved by the Board of Directors on 30/11 2020.

Chairman.....  Executive Director..... 

Date 30/11/2020 Date 30/11/2020






Economic Policy Research Centre

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