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

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

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

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

Organizational Values
The conduct of EPRC’s business is anchored on the following core values:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mission
To foster sustainable growth and development of the Ugandan economy by advancing the role of research in policy processes.
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I am pleased to present to you the Economic Policy Research Centre’s annual report 2021/22. This was particularly an important period for the Centre as it had to steer through the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, it was a year that we are transitioning to the new five-year strategic plan 2022/23 – 2026/27.

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

However, even in this tricky period, the Centre’s research focused on providing in-depth analysis of how COVID-19 was impacting Ugandan businesses, economy and society. A Rapid Survey of the COVID-19 Lockdown Effects on MSMEs and Households was carried out, and the results were disseminated in July 2021. This particularly shed light on the depth of the dent that lockdowns were having on MSMEs. It also put a torch on government interventions like cash handouts to vulnerable groups on whether the right people were targeted or received the intended support. The survey results greatly informed the government’s decision to relax lockdown in the subsequent months.

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

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

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

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

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

On the new strategic plan for 2022/23–2026/27, we aim to strengthen stakeholder engagement, governance structures and systems across the board to develop a research agenda necessary for sustainable growth and market leadership position in the evidence-based economic research in Uganda, the region and Africa at large.

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

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

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Sarah N. Ssewanyana, PhD
Executive Director
Mr. Ramathan Ggoobi  
Permanent Secretary/Secretary to Treasury, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Chairperson)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. Fred P. Ssengooba  
Principal, School of Public Health, Makerere University  
Non – ex- officio member
EPRC Staff as at June 2021
Research Staff

Macroeconomics

- Dr. Brian Sserunjogi (PhD)
  Research Fellow
- Mr. Ambrose Ogwang
  Young Professional
- Ms. Rehema Kahunde
  Research Analyst
- Mr. Nathan Sunday
  Research Analyst
- Mr. Paul Corti Lakuma
  Research Fellow

Sectoral

- Dr. Swaibu Mbowa (PhD)
  Senior Research Fellow
- Dr. Mildred Barungi (PhD)
  Senior Research Fellow
- Dr. Francis Mwesigye (PhD)
  Senior Research Fellow
- Dr. Ibrahim Kasirye (PhD)
  Director Research
  Head Research Function
- Ms. Sawuya Nakijoba
  Volunteer Research Associate
- Mr. Tony Odokonyero
  Research Analyst
- Ms. Florence Nakazi
  Research Analyst
- Ms. Mary Kajumba
  Volunteer Research Associate
- Dr. Sarah N. Ssewanyana (PhD)
  Executive Director
- Mr. Tony Odokonyero
  Research Analyst
- Ms. Florence Nakazi
  Research Analyst
- Ms. Mary Kajumba
  Volunteer Research Associate
- Dr. Sarah N. Ssewanyana (PhD)
  Executive Director
- Dr. Ibrahim Kasirye (PhD)
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- Ms. Sawuya Nakijoba
  Volunteer Research Associate
- Mr. Tony Odokonyero
  Research Analyst
- Ms. Florence Nakazi
  Research Analyst
- Ms. Mary Kajumba
  Volunteer Research Associate
Research Staff

**Trade and Regional Integration**

Dr. Isaac Shinyekwa (PhD)  
Senior Research Fellow

Ms. Aida Nattabi Kibirige  
Research Analyst

Ms. Justine Luwedde  
Research Analyst

Mr. Enock Bulime Nsubuga  
Young Professional

**Microeconomics**

Dr. Madina Guloba (PhD)  
Senior Research Fellow

Mr. Regean Mugume  
Research Analyst

Mr. Medard Kit Kakuru  
Research Analyst

Mr. Dablin Mpuuga  
Volunteer Research Associate

Dr. Linda Nakato  
Volunteer Research Associate

Mr. Smartson Ainomugisha  
Volunteer Research Associate

Ms. Blessing Atwine  
Research Analyst
Administrative and Support Staff

Finance

Ms. Mary Tusaba Kivunike  
Director Finance & Shared Services

Ms. Betty Kuteesa Nalule  
Senior Accountant

Mr. Denis Arop Nono  
Accountant

Ms. Vanice Nuwagaba  
Procurement Officer

Ms. Caroline Nyakaisiki  
Executive Assistant

Ms. Elizabeth Birabwa Aliro  
Programmes Manager

Mr. Alon Mwesigwa  
Communication Officer

Mr. Damson Atwesigye  
Knowledge Management Officer

Mr. Amos Musoke  
ICT Officer

Ms. Precious Ekinamushabire  
ICT Assistant

Human Resource and Administration

Ms. Fatumah Namubiru  
Human Resource & Administration Manager

Ms. Claire Biira Bahati  
Administrative Officer

Ms. Aminah Balunywa  
Front Desk Officer

Sam Lakwonyera  
Transport Officer

Mr. Deo Barugahare  
Transport Officer

Mr. Godson Busengendo  
Transport Officer

Mr. Tonny Stephen Mayanja  
Transport Officer

Mr. Robert Muzzaaya  
Office Attendant

Mr. Lawrence Luzze  
Office Attendant

Ms. Joan Nampindi  
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 the economic consequences of the Russia-Ukraine war and the COVID-19 pandemic on Ugandan businesses, the economy and society. The research also focused on stimulating the economy and employment to prevent the collapse of economic activity. The research theme for the FY 2021/2022 was “Supporting Uganda’s Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic”. This section provides the status of the implementation of research activities undertaken from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. It is organised along the three key research-related focus areas in the EPRC’s Strategic Plan -2017/18-20/2020/21.

Evidence based quality research delivered to respective users

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

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

As a response to the COVID pandemic effects, EPRC is implementing a 3-years project on “Mitigating Socio-Economic impacts of COVID-19 and Promoting Post-Pandemic Resilience in Uganda”. The project supported by (IDRC) has been running since September 2020. It follows a panel of MSME’s for three years to monitor and evaluate the business dynamics and the extent to which the policy responses are hindering or supporting recovery and resilience. In the FY 2021/22 an abridged report on the “Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Business Enterprises in Uganda: Evidence from Micro, Small And Medium-Sized Enterprises” was produced based on a Rapid Assessment Survey of the COVID-19 Lockdown Effects on MSMEs and Households conducted in the previous reporting period. The report analysed COVID-19 effects on enterprise operations and performance, business recovery, effects on employment in the MSME sector, and business enterprise resilience. Some of the policy recommendations in the report are addressing the cost of doing business during economic shocks; strengthening structures for better organization and coordination of MSMEs; gender-responsive social protection policy responses to support job and income security of women and youth; targeting support interventions towards business survival; building business resilience—by improving adaptive ability; leveraging knowledge and information.

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

In collaboration with the Pardee Center for International Futures, EPRC completed a Policy Note analyzing how the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are likely to be felt across the country’s development systems over the coming decades. The Policy Note titled “Potential Long-term Effects of COVID-19 on Economic and Human Development in Uganda”, explores the short and long term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the
Ugandan economy and possibilities for accelerating recovery and progress. The brief also investigated the transformative effect of a policy push towards sustainable development goals agenda.

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

This research paper generated under the USAID-funded Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI) studied household resilience capacities with a special focus on how different resilience capacities mitigate the impact of drought on food security. The study followed the TANGO framework and two-step factor analysis to construct resilience capacity indexes. The study showed that building resilience capacities effectively protected households from such devastating situations. In this regard, adaptive capacity was found to be the most effective in mitigating the effect of drought on food security. Transformative capacity and absorptive capacities possessed limited mitigating power. The study recommended investing in early warning systems and wide dissemination of climate-related information to enhance preparedness adaptation, encouraging and supporting the formation and sustainability of informal institutions at local levels. It also called for enhancing access to communal resources, improved infrastructure and agriculture extension services by the most vulnerable groups.

Nationwide Study on Uganda’s Sugarcane Sub-Sector

In collaboration with Michigan State University (MSU) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), an in-depth nationwide study of Uganda’s sugarcane sub-sector was conducted to investigate how current institutional arrangements enhance or hinder cane growers’ productivity, profitability, and food security. The study conducted under the auspices of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, Capacity and Influence (PRCI) Programme, aimed to generate evidence that would inform policy makers and stakeholders on how to operationalize policies, regulatory frameworks and direct investments for sustainable development of the sugarcane sub-sector. It was carried out in December 2021 in 12 districts within Bunyoro, Busoga, and Buganda regions. A series of targeted meetings were held with policy makers and technocrats to share the preliminary study findings and enlist their buy-in and input to the study. By the end of the reporting period a draft report had been prepared.

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

This study assessed Uganda’s legal, regulatory and institutional standards framework in pursuit of the third National Development Plan’s import replacement/export promotion strategies. The focus was on the status of Uganda’s legal, regulatory and institutional standards framework. The results showed that despite efforts to create the legal, regulatory and institutional framework for standards, several challenges still exist in the implementation that need to be addressed to achieve the
strategy’s objectives. These include; outdated laws, corruption, inadequate funding to the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), and the lack of awareness about standards among stakeholders. The study recommended that there is a need to regularly evaluate laws, regulations, and policies related to standards to address gaps in their implementation. It also emphasises the importance of understanding what the manufacturers/traders need and how they can be supported to adhere to standards.

Potential Products for Uganda’s Export Expansion and Diversification

This research paper set out to identify the potential sectors and products required for Uganda’s export intensification and diversification using the Haussmann Atlas of Economic Complexity and the International Trade Centre’s Export Potential Assessment approaches. Overall, the results suggested that Uganda has a comparative advantage for export intensification and diversification in the agricultural, minerals, light manufacturing and textile sectors, but it was exploiting only 62 percent of its potential export market. To tap the 38 percent unutilised export market the government needs to enhance the export competitiveness of Uganda’s agricultural, mineral, light manufacturing and textile products, by improving the economic infrastructure (energy, transport and e-commerce) and addressing institutional inefficiencies (bureaucracy and corruption). In addition, the productive, marketing and exporting capacities of current and prospective exporters need to be built to tap into the regional markets. The government also needs to provide adequate and timely information regarding the available export diversification and intensification opportunities in Uganda’s key trading partners. Lastly, tapping into export markets also requires strengthening the existing institutional framework for export promotion to ensure that critical stakeholders are well-coordinated and have a shared vision.

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

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

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

The Summit of East African Community (EAC) Heads of State at their 19th Ordinary Summit held on Tuesday, 29th March 2022 admitted DRC as its 7th Partner State. The major reasons advanced for DRC’s joining of the bloc were increased Intra-EAC trade and reduction of tension amongst the EAC Partner States. This study thus explored the trade effects of DRC’s membership in the EAC trade bloc. Specifically, using the SMART-WITS Model simulation...
approach the study analysed the likely trade creation and diversion accrued to the EAC partner states and the sectors poised to benefit as a result of this trade liberalisation. The results revealed that trade effects were positive among the EAC partner states, more so for Rwanda and Uganda, given that they were the current leading EAC exporters to DRC. Specifically, DRC’s membership to the EAC increased Rwanda exports by USD 81 million, Uganda’s (USD 60 million), Tanzania (USD 50 million), Kenya (USD 42 million) and Burundi (USD 6 million). The positive trade effects were attributed to trade creation (due to new exports by EAC to DRC initially sourced from non-EAC countries) rather than trade diversion. In terms of trade growth shares, free trade with DRC will increase the current trade with Uganda by 30 percent, 24 percent for Rwanda, 34 percent for Tanzania, 29 percent for Kenya and 33 percent for Burundi. The main economic sectors/industries poised to benefit from DRC membership were agro-processing, metal products (mainly iron and steel) and mineral ores industries.

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

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

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

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

This three-year research project aims at: (i) assessing gaps in public food policies and government actions and identifying barriers and facilitators to their implementation; (ii) estimating the economic burden of a selected Nutrition-Related Non-Communicable Disease; and (iii) assessing the legal and administrative feasibility of adopting and implementing context-specific interventions. The project is implemented jointly with the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) based in Kenya with support from the GLOBAL RECAP programme of the International Development Research Center (IDRC). Two papers were drafted in the reporting period, and a report titled “Evidence Pack for food environment policies in Uganda (2020-2021): A desk review was published. The first draft paper is titled: “Healthy Food Environment Policy Index (Food-EPI) Country scorecard and prioritization recommendations for action in Uganda,” and the second “Political and legal feasibility of adopting RECAP interventions of restrictions on marketing unhealthy foods and beverages to children, simplified nutrition labelling, and taxation of sugar-sweetened beverages.” Both papers are undergoing peer review.


This three-year project implemented in collaboration with the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO) examines the conditions under which increased investment in renewable energy could generate a new set of resource- and energy-related conflicts in Africa — a so-called “green curse” — and how to prevent and resolve these conflicts. In the period under review, the Centre conducted site identification and mobilization visits to the hosting and affected communities of Karuma Hydropower Project and Isimba hydropower project in January 2022, to identify upstream and downstream communities surrounding the two hydropower projects and their local council representatives to act as mobilizers for the subsequent in-depth fieldwork. Subsequently, a nine-day field work comprising focus group discussions and key informant interviews was conducted to capture information on pathways and conflict triggers in renewable energy developments and mechanisms required to prevent renewable energy-related conflicts was collected through a nine-workday fieldwork. Thematic analysis following the project objectives was used to analyze the information collected from the field and a report produced and shared with the project partners. In total, 19 FGDs were conducted with varying numbers of respondents and six KII. A report was produced.

Monitoring Uganda’s Business Climate

EPRC continued to monitor and capture Ugandan business managers’ perceptions of the current and near-future (expected three months ahead) business indicators to determine their role in economic developments and the business environment in Uganda. The
results were packaged into quarterly publications—Business Climate Indexes were useful in providing policy makers both in Government and in the Private Sector with insights about the general direction of the cyclical developments and information about future business expectations. Six quarterly BCI issues were published, with Issue No 33 produced in August 2021, Issue number 34 — a special issue on (The effects of COVID-19 lockdowns on Ugandan businesses: A comparison of the 2020 and the 2021 lockdowns), Issue No 35 produced in November 2021, Issue 36 produced in February 2022, Issue 37 produced in March 2022 and Issue 38 produced in June 2022.

The Ugandan Economy Today

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

At the request of the MoFPED, the Centre conducted a study to critically analyse the key allocative and technical efficiency outputs that contributed to governments budget reprioritisation amidst increased fiscal pressure caused by a sudden drop in revenues from the economic slowdown and new expenditure pressures associated with COVID-19 impacts. Uganda’s budget authority had reprioritised the budget towards 7 sectors, i.e., agriculture, health, education, trade and industry, social development, works and energy. The intention was to stay focused on the government’s objective of increasing household and firm production and productivity, providing jobs, reducing the health impacts of coronavirus, supporting poverty reduction efforts, promoting exports and enhancing economic growth. Covering the period 2016/17 to 2020/21, the study revealed that, despite having high allocative efficiency in a majority of the proposed reprioritisation sectors, there was much variation in budget funds and their utilisation. This was mainly due to: (i) mismatch between the policy objectives and budgets reflected in the discrepancy between capital expenditure (CAPEX) allocations, (ii) duplication of budget outputs which reduced flexibility and accountability and increased monitoring costs, (iii) variations in utilisation of domestic, relative to the external development financing, (iv) budgeting was still based on the output/ institution-based system with limited linkages between budget allocations and programme priorities. The study generally recommended halting of new road construction in the short term to allow for rechannelling of available funds to other urgent and critical areas.

Drivers of Changes in Uganda’s Fuel Pump Prices During the COVID-19 Crisis

At the request of the MoFPED, EPRC analysed how local price increases were synchronous with regional and international prices following the global surge in oil prices experienced in the first half of 2021 and peaked in October and November 2021. The study established that international fuel price (crude oil) emerged as the most significant driver of Uganda’s fuel pump price, comprising 40% of the pump price, followed by tax (31%) and distribution and marketing costs as well as retail dealer profit margin (29%). In addition, fuel shortages, exacerbated...
by a weak fuel reserve capacity, contributed to the skyrocketing fuel price. The tendency of an oligopolistic cartel-like structure of the petroleum market also seemed to amplify the fuel price crisis. In the medium term, the study recommended aligning fuel taxes with the inflation target; regulating price and costs related to distribution and margin, implementing tax measures alongside regulatory measures and establishing a fuel stabilisation fund or subsidy to mitigate the effects of the international price crisis. Other proposals were building an effective fuel reserve system (with higher capacity) and setting up an autonomous public agency to regulate and manage reserve measures and price stabilisation during fuel crises.

**Surge In Uganda’s Laundry Soap and Cooking Oil Prices in 2021/22**

This is another of the quick assessments conducted at the request of MoFPED. The study sought to establish why the retail prices of laundry soap and cooking oil had escalated faster than the prices for most commodities, especially between January and February 2022. During this period, the national average retail price for laundry bar soap rose by 22 percent, from UGX 4,257 in January to UGX 5,213 per kg in February 2022. Except for sugar, the other essential commodities mainly depended on imported inputs—whose prices had increased drastically since July 2021 due to international and domestic factors. Evidence revealed that between July 2021 and February 2022, the contribution of the global price of CPO in the final retail price drastically increased to 63 percent from 57 percent registered in the first half of 2021 (January to June 2021). Imposing import duty on CPO in July 2021 also affected the input mix used by manufacturers. To a lesser extent, the gradual rise in international shipping costs and the increase in global fuel prices also contributed to the escalation of soap and cooking oil prices. The study recommended a temporary waiver of the 10 percent import duty and 1.5 percent infrastructure levy on CPO and related product imports to contain the surge in commodity prices in the short term.

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

At the request of the MoGLSD, EPRC undertook a study to assess the gendered differences in SGBV experiences and consequences arising from the various measures that were put in place to control the spread of Covid 19. The study showed that the number of SGBV cases reported at various service facilities increased irrespective of the lockdown period. As expected, it was more challenging for service providers to reach out to communities, especially with specialised services such as family planning, ARVs, legal assistance, and management of rape. However, the study revealed that different service provider used different communication interventions most of which were in existence prior COVID-19 such as, radio talks shows, toll free lines, virtual counselling, and community leaders to reach out to people with SGBV prevention and response services. There was reported use of virtual counselling methods as an alternative to the inperson sessions. The study recommended among others, prioritisation of resource allocation to emergence SGBV response teams in communities: in terms of transport (motorcycles), fuel and airtime; adoption of multiple sensitisation methods to convey information and empowerment of local leaders/structures at different levels to handle SGBV cases.

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

This paper generated with support from the African Development Bank (AfDB) unveils the challenges and the opportunities of Public and Private Partnership (PPPs) as a vehicle to attract FDI to contribute to a more
inclusive and sustainable recovery of Uganda in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. Utilizing, largely, a qualitative methodological approach, the paper reveals that PPPs have not yet been fully utilised in attracting FDI as a strategy amidst the diminishing foreign direct investors’ interest due to challenges presented by COVID-19. The challenges are mainly as a result of first absence of a vibrant private sector to absorb the FDI. Secondly, the government has inadequate capacity for deep evaluation of possible PPPs to attract FDI. Thirdly, mistrust between the private and the public sector. Fourthly, lack of regulatory compliance and lastly, among many other, lack of local participation. The policy recommendations advanced for PPP strategy refresh to attract FDI are; deepen Uganda’s private sector to attract quality FDI and PPPs; introduction of the competition law to drive fairness, deepen local participation and de-risk agriculture to ensure inclusivity.

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

In December 2021 EPRC entered a partnership with FAO to document the transformation journey in Uganda’s agriculture sector and to identify critical commodity-specific investment gaps and opportunities for five priority commodity value chains in selected districts of Uganda. These included goats, maize, millet, cassava and coffee. These included: Millet (Soroti district), maize (Serere district), cassava (Lira district), goats (Kibale district), and coffee (Masaka district). The study revealed that several reforms implemented in the sector in the past 30 years, made a significant contribution to the reduction in income headcount poverty. Still, the reforms did not result in a significant transformation: the agricultural sector did not release labour to industry and services, the adoption rates of nationally released varieties remained extremely low. The sector recorded modest economic and food growth rates. In terms of priority investment rankings by the farmers; seed/breed, extension services and fertilizers emerged the top three most pressing investment gaps to agricultural transformation, although individual commodities exhibited slightly different rankings.
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 the representation on various sectoral and technical working groups. In the following sections, a description of the major attainments and notable contributions is provided.

Training of EPRC stakeholders

Capacity building in Subnational Development and Forecasting in Uganda

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

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

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

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

Capacity Strengthening for Parliamentarians

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

Strengthening the Capacity of MoFPED on Budget Reprioritisation

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

Technical Support to Policy Processes

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

Development of the National Employment Strategy

EPRC supported the MoGLSD to execute several activities geared towards the design and formulation of the National Employment Strategy for Uganda through consultative and inclusive processes with stakeholders at the national and local levels. The specific activities included, conducting of a situation analysis on employment and productivity trends, formulation of the NES governance framework, participation in technical drafting committee (TDC) and National Employment Council Meetings, and facilitation...
of stakeholder consultations that spanned four regions of Uganda to ensure input and ownership of the strategy. The NES will provide a framework that will develop, restructure where necessary and appropriate, transform the Ugandan economy into a sustainable, equitable and job-rich economy, and steer up institutional relations for solutions to unemployment. In addition, EPRC provided input to the MoGLSD in drafting and reviewing of labour migration indicators and suggestions for improving partnerships and synergies for data generation and sharing.

Informing Implementation of NDP III

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

Support to the Accountability Sector

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

Private Sector Development (PSD) Programme Working Group

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

Sustainable Resource Mobilisation Cluster

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Researcher(s) names</th>
<th>Committee/ Task-force/ Working Group</th>
<th>Purpose/Mandate/Objectives</th>
<th>EPRC’s role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Ssewanyana</td>
<td>Presidential Economic Council</td>
<td>Dealing with strategic national economic policy development. The President or Vice President chairs it and its membership include government, other players from the private sector, and the Uganda Manufacturers’ Association (UMA) and Private Sector Foundation Chairpersons.</td>
<td>- Provision of evidence-based research to inform discussion on strategic national economic policy development.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Sarah Ssewanyana Swaibu Mbowa, Ibrahim Kasire, 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 |
| Brian Sserunjogi, Florence Nakazi & Mildred Barungi | Agricultural Finance Yearbook 2020 Review Committee and Quality Assurance | To ensure the production of a high-quality Agricultural Finance Yearbook through preliminary reviews of the articles that meet the minimum 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 |
| Tonny Odokonyero & Elizabeth Birabwa | DPI and PSD Programme Working Group | Mandatory Programme performance reporting for the Private Sector Development (PSD) and Development Plan Implementation Programme of NDPIII | - Technical support on indicator compilation, and reporting for PSD programme  
- Presentation on “Use of evidence in planning and budgeting - key roles and opportunities for planners”.                                                                                             |
| Isaac Shinyekwa, Enoock Bulime and Aida Nattabi | MoTICs- technical Committee on External Trade | Preparation of Uganda’s position for the EAC-UK post brexit trade agreement negotiations  
Development of import substitution strategy for Uganda | - Provided empirical data evidence on what the EAC should do to get the best out of the negotiations  
- Reviwed the strategy and made suggestions on policy regulatory and administrative areas for improvement towards the implementation of the proposed Import substitution industrialization approach |
| Mildred Barungi | Gender Statistics Advisory Group (GSAG)/ UBoS | Guide the Consultant in development of Methodological Guidelines for compilation of Citizen Generated Data | - Provided input based on the Consultant’s presentation and reviewed the inception report.                                                                                                                  |
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.

**Website**

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

**Convening Events**

In the FY 2021/2022, the Centre continued to prove its convening power by organising several policy and technical events that attracted policy and decision makers from both state and non-state organisations. Many of our research and knowledge products were disseminated through a wide variety of dissemination formats, ranging from virtual conferences, livestream TV broadcasts, public panel dialogues, Community Barazas and roundtable discussions. These engagement activities brought us closer to our targeted stakeholders and enabled the Centre’s researchers to understand the policy processes more and appreciate the specific contexts in which the different stakeholders, particularly the MDAs work in. A detailed list of the dissemination and outreach events held can be obtained at [http://www.eprcug.org](http://www.eprcug.org). The following is a brief overview of the most notable dissemination and policy engagement events for the period under consideration.

**Report Launches**

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

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

**Launch of the Foresight Africa Report 2022.**

EPRC together with the Brookings Institution co-hosted the launch of Foresight Africa 2022 in Kampala on May 3, 2022. Foresight Africa is a Flagship Report of the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institution. The report captures the top priorities for the region in the coming year, offering recommendations for African and global stakeholders for creating and supporting a strong, sustainable, and successful Africa. In doing so, the Foresight Africa 2022 Kampala launch event offered...
participants an opportunity to deliberate on
the strategies for boosting financing
to protect and enhance the economic
gains in Africa, tackling of climate
change concerns; and harnessing of
African women leadership potential,
amongst ways of navigating the effects
of the covid pandemic.

Launch of report on “Potential
Long-Term Effects of COVID-19 on
Economic and Human Development
in Uganda”

On April 17, 2022, the Economic
Policy Research Center (EPRC) and
the Frederick S. Pardee Center for
International Futures launched a report
on the “Potential Long-term Effects of
COVID-19 on Economic and Human
Development in Uganda”. The report
explores the effect of COVID-19 on
economic and human development in
Uganda in the short and long term. The
model examines different scenarios
to gauge the damages inflicted on
the Ugandan economy. The Current
Path scenario reflects the impact
of COVID-19, while the No COVID
scenario represents the path Uganda
was on prior to the pandemic. It also
investigates the transformative effect
of a policy push towards sustainable
development goals agenda and makes
policy recommendations. Funded by
the European Union, this is the first
report published as the outcome of
the collaboration between the Pardee
Center and EPRC. The full report is
available for download both on the
EPRC and the Pardee Center website.

The Launch of the Agriculture
Finance Yearbook 2021

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

Unveiling of study results on
the nationwide survey on socio-
economic impact of COVID-19 on
MSMEs in Uganda

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

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

Dialogue on the sugarcane sector in Uganda

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

Dialogue on labour externalisation in Uganda

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

Community Barazas

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

Media Coverage

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

The Centre generated at least 2,000 mentions in online outlets across Uganda and beyond. At least 47 EPRC mentions were generated in print media, with majority of these being attributions where either our research or our researchers are quoted. Our publications are also used to place background or context in some stories that different media houses are usually discussing. Daily Monitor gave the Centre more mentions at 34 while New Vision gave us 11, and Observer mentioned us nine times. The articles placed by EPRC researchers in newspapers as expert opinions or Op-Eds discussing different topical issues totaled 16 and were ran in Daily Monitor, New Vision and Observer. The following are selected newspaper articles published during the reporting period by EPRC researchers:
EPRC Commentaries published by the press in 2021/2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO</th>
<th>Author (S)</th>
<th>Title of Article</th>
<th>Date Published</th>
<th>Name of Publication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Rehema Kahunde</td>
<td>Is the NDP III strategy of reducing the informal sector achievable?</td>
<td>November 9, 2021</td>
<td>Daily Monitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Medard Kakuru</td>
<td>Are schools ready to meet pregnant and breastfeeding learners’ needs</td>
<td>December 21, 2021</td>
<td>Daily Monitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Aida Nattabi and Regean Mugume</td>
<td>How can Uganda benefit from DRC’s admission to the EAC?</td>
<td>January 14, 2022</td>
<td>Daily Monitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Florence Nakazzi</td>
<td>Positioning women in local government politics to address gender equality concerns</td>
<td>March 8, 2022</td>
<td>New Vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Denis Maya</td>
<td>Mitigating the high cost of electricity to attain inclusive growth</td>
<td>February 21, 2022</td>
<td>New Vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Smartson Ainomugisha</td>
<td>School dropouts likely to increase</td>
<td>March 30, 2022</td>
<td>Daily Monitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Alon Mwesigwa</td>
<td>With DRC on board, EAC should find a regional solution to refugees</td>
<td>April 13, 2022</td>
<td>Daily Monitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Smartson Ainomugisha</td>
<td>Curbing the growing burden of NCDs</td>
<td>May 04, 2022</td>
<td>Daily Monitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Medard Kakuru</td>
<td>Why pesticides have failed to fight armyworms</td>
<td>May 9, 2022</td>
<td>Daily Monitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Dr. Linda Nakato</td>
<td>Is oil Uganda’s answer to attaining middle income status?</td>
<td>May 11, 2022</td>
<td>Observer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Justine Luwedde</td>
<td>Will the recently adopted common external tariff boost local production?</td>
<td>June 22, 2022</td>
<td>Observer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Broadcast Media

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

The Centre continued to embrace social media and other digital channels as a platform for sharing its research products and engaging with its stakeholders. Key among these is the Centre’s website that is seeing continuous improvement to make user-experience flawless. In addition, the electronic newsletter was used to churn out information on a regular basis about the centre’s activities and knowledge products. In total 6 issues of the bi-monthly organisational newsletter were produced and widely circulated during the reporting period.

In terms of social media usage, our organic Facebook post reach is 300 people and we have reached 3,115 general page followers. Our Tweets, which captured our research activities and research products did well, reaching an average of 30,000 persons with May 2022 topping monthly views up to 36,000 people. Our following on Twitter is also growing steadily, reaching 3,300 as at June 30, 2022. On YouTube, the Centre flowing is growing slowly but steadily. Our post on the mythologies around coffee consumption in Uganda has been the most popular, racking up to 700 views. In relation to blogs, a total of sixteen (16) blogs were published by researchers as per the table below.

Blogs Published in FY 2021/2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location on Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 14, 2022</td>
<td>Linda Nakato</td>
<td>Is oil Uganda’s answer to attaining middle-income status?</td>
<td><a href="https://eprcug.org/eprc-in-the-news/is-oil-ugandas-answer-to-attaining-middle-income-status/">https://eprcug.org/eprc-in-the-news/is-oil-ugandas-answer-to-attaining-middle-income-status/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13, 2022</td>
<td>Alon Mwesigwa</td>
<td>With DRC on Board, the EAC Should Find a Regional Solution to Refugees</td>
<td><a href="https://eprcug.org/eprc-in-the-news/with-drc-on-board-the-eac-should-find-a-regional-solution-to-refugees/">https://eprcug.org/eprc-in-the-news/with-drc-on-board-the-eac-should-find-a-regional-solution-to-refugees/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8, 2022</td>
<td>Smartson Ainomugisha</td>
<td>How the Parish Development Model can support job creation efforts under NDP III</td>
<td><a href="https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/how-the-parish-development-model-can-support-job-creation-efforts-under-ndp-iii/">https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/how-the-parish-development-model-can-support-job-creation-efforts-under-ndp-iii/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Author</td>
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<td>Location on Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 23, 2022</td>
<td>Sawuya Nakijoba</td>
<td>Parish Development Model: key issues that may derail progress</td>
<td><a href="https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/parish-development-model-key-issues-that-may-derail-progress/">https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/parish-development-model-key-issues-that-may-derail-progress/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 17, 2022</td>
<td>Denis Maya</td>
<td>Is high cost of electricity a challenge to industrialization?</td>
<td><a href="https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/is-high-cost-of-electricity-a-challenge-to-industrialization/">https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/is-high-cost-of-electricity-a-challenge-to-industrialization/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 21, 2022</td>
<td>Smartson Ainomugisha, Sawuya Nakijoba</td>
<td>How Uganda can avoid China debt trap</td>
<td><a href="https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/how-uganda-can-avoid-china-debt-trap/">https://eprcug.org/eprc-highlights/how-uganda-can-avoid-china-debt-trap/</a></td>
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<td>December 21, 2022</td>
<td>Medard Kakuru</td>
<td>Are schools ready for pregnant and breast-feeding learners’ needs?</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Kitante Primary School pupils up line for morning briefing. EPRC research on impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs had a special focus on schools. Photo/EPRC*
Production and Circulation of Research Products
The Centre generated various research and policy analysis outputs that were eventually published under the Centre’s in-house publication series for wider circulation; and others in refereed journals/book chapters for academic and professional consumption.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Journal or Book Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tonny Odokonyero and Francis Mwesigye</td>
<td>Maternal Health Care Among Refugees and Host Communities in Northern Uganda: Access, Quality, and Discrimination</td>
<td>Frontiers in Global Women’s Health on August 20, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dablin Mpuuga</td>
<td>Barriers to, and facilitators of, the adoption of a sugar sweetened beverage tax to prevent non-communicable diseases in Uganda: a policy landscape analysis</td>
<td>Tanzanian Economic Review, Vol. 11 No. 2, December 2021: 1–21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Birabwa</td>
<td>Using evidence diagnostics to think and work politically: SEDI’s experience</td>
<td>SEDI Learning Brief 5, Strengthening Evidence Use for Development Impact, Oxford.2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some of the research products published in-house in FY2021/2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pub.</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>EPRC Uganda/MoFPED</td>
<td>Transformation of the Livestock Value Chain for Agro-Industrialisation</td>
<td>October 15, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Corti Paul Lakuma, Brian Sserunjogi, Nathan Sunday, Rehema Kahunde and Ambrose Ogwang</td>
<td>The effect of COVID-19 on the operations of agro-processing MSMEs in Uganda</td>
<td>October 22, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Tonny Odokonyero and Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime</td>
<td>Drivers of changes in Uganda’s fuel pump prices during the COVID-19 crisis.</td>
<td>April 17, 2022</td>
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<td>Drivers of changes in Uganda’s fuel pump prices during the COVID-19 crisis.</td>
<td>April 17, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policy Briefs

<p>| 1. | Francis Mwesigye | Gender, unpaid care work in Uganda: Evidence from the 2017-18 Time Use Survey | September 10, 2021 |
| 2. | Madina Guloba and Dablin Mpuuga | How improving quality and standards in the Ugandan fish value chain impacts sustainable development of decent jobs | September 24, 2021 |
| 3. | EPRC Uganda/MoFPED | Uganda loses USD 271 million annually due to limited investment in leather processing | October 15, 2021 |
| 4. | EPRC Uganda/MoFPED | Investing in high-end dairy products is critical for fostering Uganda’s agro-industrialisation agenda | October 15, 2021 |
| 5. | EPRC Uganda/MoFPED | Ensuring the right cattle breeds and the required standards to transform the beef value chain | October 15, 2021 |
| 6. | EPRC Uganda/MoFPED | Livestock associations and cooperatives: Implications for livestock sector transformation | October 15, 2021 |
| 7. | EPRC Uganda/MoFPED | How Gaps in traceability systems affect Uganda’s livestock sector transformation | October 15, 2021 |
| 8. | Mildred Barungi, Florence Nakazi and Ibrahim Kasirye | What interventions are required to achieve gender balance in political representation at the local government level? | October 22, 2021 |
| 9. | Francis Mwesigye | COVID-19 Implications on Private Investment and Markets in East Africa | |
| 11. | Madina Guloba and Blessing Atwine | Digital technologies uptake is still low in Ugandan Secondary and Tertiary institutions | December 23, 2021 |
| 12. | Aida Kibirige Nattabi, Isaac Shinyekwa and Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime | Which products should Uganda leverage for export diversification? | December 24, 2021 |
| 13. | Regean Mugume and Aida Kibirige Nattabi | How is Uganda likely to benefit from DRC’s membership in the EAC bloc? | December 24, 2021 |</p>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Rehema Kahunde, Corti Paul Lakuma and Brian Sserunjogi</td>
<td>How currency fluctuations affect SME access to credit and investment decisions: The case study of Uganda, Kenya and Ghana</td>
<td>March 11, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research Series**

| 1.    | Regean Mugume and Aida Kibirige Nattabi | How Will the Democratic Republic of Congo’s Joining the EAC Bloc Affect Regional Trade? | September 19, 2021 |
| 2.    | Isaac Shinyekwa, Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime, Aida Kibirige Nattabi and Justine Luwedde | Potential Products for Uganda’s Export Expansion and Diversification | October 1, 2021 |

**Business Climate Index**

| 3.    | Rehema Kahunde, Denis Maya, Corti Paul Lakuma, Brian Sserunjogi and Ambrose Ogwang | Disruptions from the second COVID-19 lockdown affect the business environment, and the future outlook remains downcast | December 21, 2021 |
| 4.    | Ambrose Ogwang, Denis Maya, Rehema Kahunde, Corti Paul Lakuma and Brian Sserunjogi | COVID-19 containment measures disrupt businesses, but more remain optimistic about future | March 13, 2022 |
| 5.    | Rehema Kahunde, Ambrose Ogwang, Denis Maya, Corti Paul Lakuma and Brian Sserunjogi | School reopening in Uganda after the COVID-19 lockdowns: preparedness, attrition, challenges and prospects for recovery | April 7, 2022 |
| 6.    | Denis Maya, Ambrose Ogwang, Rehema Kahunde, Corti Paul Lakuma and Brian Sserunjogi | How does the increase in the transport and distribution costs, because of the global oil price changes, affect Ugandan businesses? | April 10, 2022 |
| 7.    | Ambrose Ogwang, Denis Maya, Rehema Kahunde, Corti Paul Lakuma and Brian Sserunjogi | An increase in the price of goods and services affects business operations | June 24, 2022 |

**Ugandan Economy Today**

| 1.    | Medard Kakuru, Regean Mugume, Aida Kibirige Nattabi, Justine Luwedde, Nathan Sunday, Rehema Kahunde, Blessing Atwine and Enock Nsubuga | The Ugandan Economy Today Quarter 1 July-September 2020 | September 24, 2021 |
| 2.    | Medard Kakuru, Regean Mugume, Aida Kibirige Nattabi, Justine Luwedde, Rehema Kahunde, Blessing Atwine and Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime | The Ugandan Economy Today Quarter 2 October-December 2020 | November 9, 2021 |
| 4.    | Medard Kakuru, Regean Mugume, Aida Kibirige Nattabi, Justine Luwedde, Nathan Sunday, Rehema Kahunde, Blessing Atwine and Enock Nsubuga Will Bulime | Ugandan Economy Today Quarter 4 April-June 2021 | March 5, 2022 |

All the above-listed publications are available at: [http://www.eprcug.or](http://www.eprcug.or)
The UN resident coordinator in Uganda Ms. Susan Ngongi Namando paid a courtesy visit to EPRC.

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

Institutional strengthening
Board Induction/ training:

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

Staff Management and Transitions

By close of FY2021/22, the Centre had a total of 43 staff members. Out of the 43, 23 were research staff including the Executive Director, and some volunteer research associates. 20 were non- research staff. In this period the Centre witnessed two staff exits namely; Dr. Mildred Barungi, Senior Research Fellow, who left in October 2021 and Dr. Francis Mwesigye Senior Research Fellow, who left in January 2022. In October 2021, the Centre recruited Ms. Betty Kuteesa as Senior Accountant to boost number and capacity of human resources in the Finance Department in handling the roles and responsibilities of the Department more efficiently and effectively. This resolved the issue of understaffing in the Finance Department.

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

In-house Staff Capacity Strengthening

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

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

Requests for Expert Advice and Contribution to Research and Policy Processes

I. Collaboration request from Bishop Stuart University (BSU) Mbarara for networking and mentorship in the areas of policy research and analysis; and policy engagement.

II. The Center for the Study of Economic and Social Affairs (CERES) - a multidisciplinary think tank based in Uruguay sought for collaboration with EPRC as a way of expanding their reach and network with similar organizations globally. The primary purpose of the partnership would be to share relevant information, learn from each other and collaborate on potentially relevant areas of work.

III. The Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI) approached EPRC to join the working group set up to generate stakeholder positions and input into the draft study on EAC negotiating FTAs with selected third parties namely; China, India, EFTA States, Gulf Cooperations Council and Turkey.

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

EPRC staff participate in the academic staff procession during the 72nd graduation at Makerere University.
# Statement of Financial Position as at 30th June 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>AS at 30.06.2022 UGX</th>
<th>AS at 30.06.2021 UGX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</td>
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<td>1,351,680,815</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intangible Assets</td>
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<td>13,499,819</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
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<td>329,679,512</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment in Treasury Bills</td>
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<td>5,276,931,770</td>
<td>3,022,545,153</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalent</td>
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<td>4,148,719,201</td>
<td>6,483,372,607</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity and Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>9,755,330,483</td>
<td>9,598,833,769</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EQUITY AND LIABILITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>AS at 30.06.2022 UGX</th>
<th>AS at 30.06.2021 UGX</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Share Holders' Funds</td>
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<td>Revaluation Reserve</td>
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<td>486,621,778</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Reserve</td>
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<td>6,394,678,684</td>
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<td><strong>Total Equity and Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>8,159,538,366</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Revenue Grants</td>
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<td>1,872,700,306</td>
<td>1,830,031,607</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Grant</td>
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<td>9,756,715</td>
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<td>Payables</td>
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<td>1,139,514,633</td>
<td>927,382,016</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity and Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>3,019,534,337</td>
<td>2,767,170,338</td>
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</table>

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

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

Chairperson: [Signature] Date: 27th October 2022

Executive Director: [Signature] Date: 27th October 2022