



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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ABOUT CSEA



The Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA) contributes to impactful and meaningful development results around Africa.

Our Objective

CSEA's objective is to enhance development outcomes in Africa through evidence-based research.

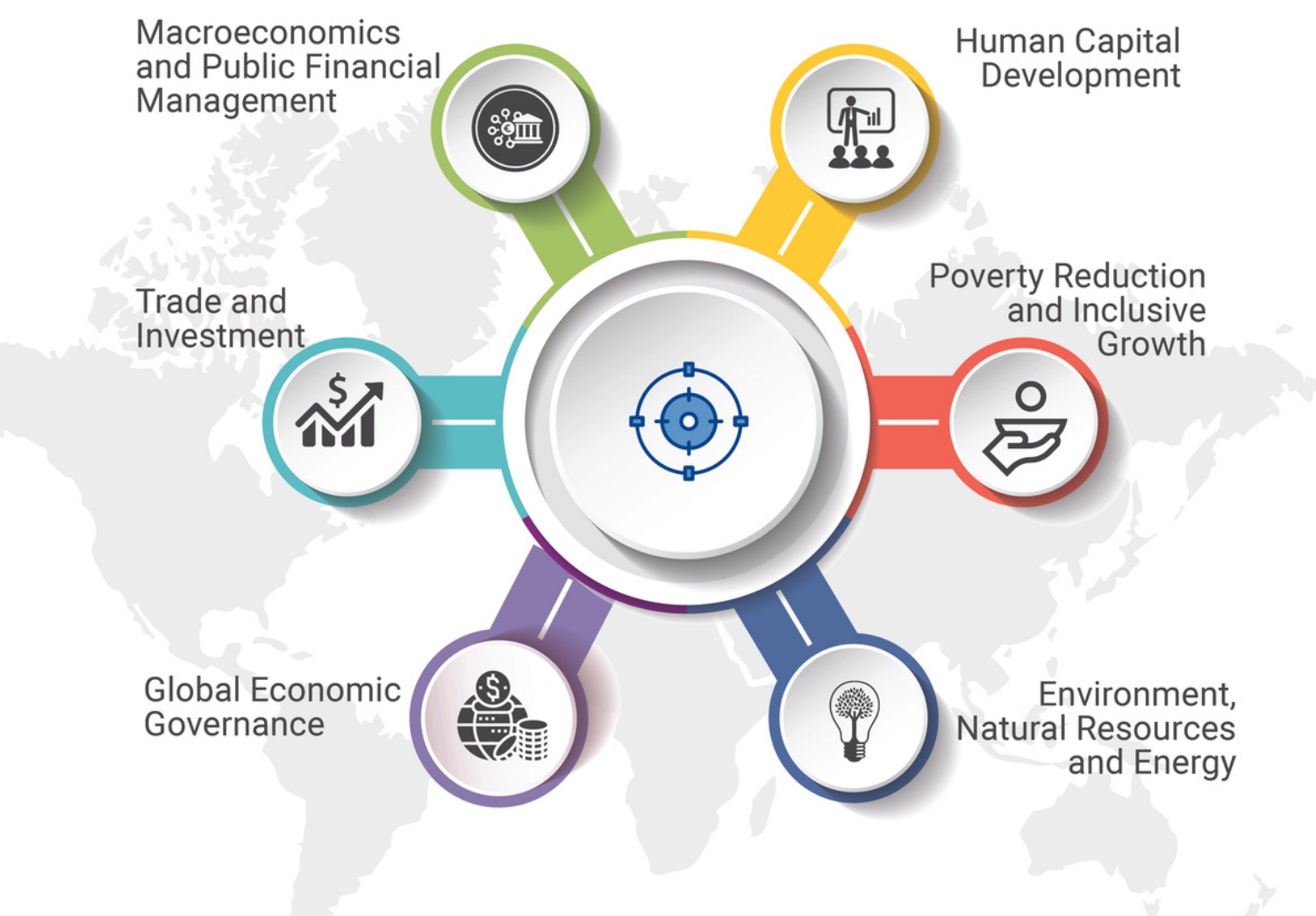
Our Vision

CSEA's vision is to be a leading research think tank in Africa for the creation and dissemination of evidence-based knowledge and solutions to Africa's development challenges.

Our Mission

To improve the quality of African economic and development policies through accessible and evidence-based research, analysis and debate.

OUR THEMATIC AREAS



MESSAGE **FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

I am pleased to present to you the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA) Annual Report 2022. This report provides key highlights of the Centre's research and policy engagement activities as well as our contribution to advancing development in Africa.

The year 2022 brought unprecedented challenges; the Russia- Ukraine conflict caused geopolitical tensions and uncertainties globally, as most economies especially Africa were just emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. The conflict also took a toll on the Nigerian economy and affected crude oil prices, cost of transportation and food prices.

At CSEA, we adjusted our strategies and operations, taking proactive measures to cope with the post-COVID-19 environment by ensuring that we provide the necessary resources to support staff and also accommodate remote working for staff to sustain and support a high level of productivity. We also conducted strategic research to support and provide African governments with policy options to help navigate the post-COVID-19 environment.

Among the year's successes, we are pleased to report that we received commissioned research projects from reputable international development partners. We also concluded some of the ongoing projects from previous reporting years. In particular, we concluded our research activities for the Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) project. CSEA received funding in 2019 to conduct the RISE Nigeria project, a multi-country project that aims to understand how school systems in developing countries can overcome the learning crisis and achieve quality education.

Our research activities in 2022 culminated in the publication of high-quality research output on topical African development issues. These outputs were published in several research journals as well as by reputable institutions including the Brookings Institution.

To strengthen our policy engagement and outreach, we made significant investments to support our communication activities by acquiring high-tech equipment such as cameras and video recorders and recruiting additional staff to strengthen the team.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to the Board of Trustees for their committed oversight role to the Centre. I would also like to commend the management and staff of CSEA for their contribution and dedicated efforts. Your support, resourcefulness and engagement have continued to motivate us to forge ahead.

I do not doubt that together we would continue to add value to the continent through our research and policy engagement efforts.

Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena
Executive Director, CSEA

AN OVERVIEW OF CSEA IN THE YEAR 2022



CSEA recorded commendable progress in 2022 despite the challenges in the global economy. To maintain the successes and progress achieved over the years, CSEA continued to build on its consistency in providing actionable recommendations that influence policy choices. In particular, we provided research to support governments navigate the post-covid environment.

Our work with SAIIA on the COVID-19 Macroeconomic Policy Responses in Africa (COMPRA) project, helped inform macroeconomic policy development in response to the coronavirus pandemic by low- and middle-income countries, and development partners, through a more robust climate-resilient and gender-responsive measures.

To further mitigate COVID-19's social and economic impact and promote recovery, our research study with the Brookings Institution provided recommendations that would help the design and implementation of macroeconomic policies to support African governments manage the growing debt crisis.



Our research on data governance also gained momentum as we provided evidence-based research to help facilitate the development of a regional approach to data governance and fast-track the budding steps towards digitalization in Africa.

We continued to take the lead in conducting large-scale, evidence-based education research in Africa. Our work in the RISE Nigeria project provided actionable recommendations towards achieving inclusive and equitable quality education.



Our stakeholder engagement yielded positive results as we strengthened our policy linkages, communication and outreach to ensure that our research output is channelled into the right policy space. It also featured high-level policy dialogues and dissemination events as well as staff participation in conferences and workshops in Africa and across the globe.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Towards reconciling economic and debt management policies with climate and development objectives in Nigeria

Commissioned by IDRC | Budget: USD\$95,000.00

CSEA, supported by the Brookings Institution, responded to the IDRC call for proposals on Promoting a Pandemic Response: Evidence to Support Managing the Growing Debt Crisis. The project's overall goal is to ensure that the design and implementation of macroeconomic policies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by the Nigerian government and development partners results in more effective, fiscally sustainable, climate-resilient, and gender-responsive measures through evidence-based research. This would help to mitigate COVID-19's social and economic impact, promote recovery from the pandemic in the short term and position Nigeria in the longer term for a more sustainable, inclusive, and fiscally responsible future.

COVID-19 Macro-economic policy response in Africa (COMPRA)

Commissioned by IDRC-SAIIA | Budget: USD\$280,989.00

This project's purpose is to inform policy development in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by LICs and development partners that result in more inclusive, climate-resilient, effective, and gender-responsive measures. This would help to mitigate the social and economic impact of COVID-19, promote recovery from the pandemic in the short term and position LICs in the long term for a more climate-resilient, sustainable and stable future. Enhance the voice of LICs in global policy decision-making and strengthen global development policymaking through contextualised evidence-based knowledge and policy suggestions. Strengthen policymaking at the national level in LICs through locally generated evidence-based knowledge and policy suggestions.

Industry Without Smokestacks (IWOSS)

Commissioned by Brookings Institute| Budget: USD\$50,000.00

The goal of the IWOSS project is to examine the potential for industries without smokestacks (IWOSS) in creating large-scale job opportunities in Nigeria, particularly for the young and female population subgroups. The central concern is whether these IWOSS sectors can provide satisfactory performance in providing adequate and quality employment in Nigeria. CSEA was contracted to identify and investigate the general and sector-specific constraints limiting the competitiveness of IWOSS sectors. Key activities include producing a case study for Nigeria on the subject, as would be comparable to the already completed studies in other African countries; and conducting a firm-level survey to gain insights on the experience of firms within the Nigerian IWOSS sectors.

State of SDGs (SVSS II)

Commissioned by Southern Voice and Group for the Analysis of Development (GRADE)| Budget: USD\$90,000.00

CSEA serves as the lead regional consultant within Africa tasked with identifying and delving into emerging trends that facilitate and hinder the achievement of SDG 16. The achievement of SDG 16 saw slow progress before COVID-19, and the pandemic has made the realization of the Goal even harder due to the significant challenges faced by governments worldwide. As the Regional Lead, CSEA will evaluate factors such as a Shrinking civic space, Gender violence, Transparency and accountability in procurement and distribution of medical supplies and their contributions towards the delay of SDG 16 goals.

Digitization and Data Governance in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

Commissioned by Hewlett Foundation| Budget: USD\$350,000.00

CSEA, recognized for its expertise in conducting multi-country studies and advocacy in the areas of regional integration and Global Economic Governance has been contracted by the Hewlett Foundation to support the drive for continuance of a foundational regional data governance framework in Africa. African regional integration efforts such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) have the potential to spark economic development and digital transformation. The presence of an appropriate data governance framework especially at the regional level will be crucial in this respect to respond to data concerns and exigencies under regional integration while complementing national governments' efforts.

Increasing Access to Quality Education for Rural and Marginalised Children in West Africa – A comparative study of Accelerated Education programs and Girls Focused Education Models in Ghana, Nigeria, and SeirraLeone

Commissioned by IDRC/Associate for Change (AfC)| Budget: CAD\$233,134.00

CSEA is part of a consortium conducting regional research with a focus on Ghana, Sierra Leone and Nigeria on Increasing Access to Education for Rural and Marginalised Children, investigating the effectiveness of existing education innovations including accelerated education models and girls-focused models in achieving this objective. The multi-year project includes fieldwork, research, and dissemination. Currently, CSEA has produced a series of knowledge products on this work including policy briefs, a literature review, a comprehensive analysis and articles on the scale of out-of-school children and the potential of Accelerated Education Programs in resolving this issue.

RESEARCH PROJECTS (RECENTLY COMPLETED)

Community Engagement, Local Politics and Education Outcomes: Evidence from Nigeria

Commissioned by FCDO-RISE| Budget: £3,000,000.00

The Economics of Tobacco Control Nigeria

Commissioned by IDRC| Budget: CAD\$311,000.00

Women in Trade (WIT) Knowledge Platform to Boost Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

Commissioned by Trade Facilitation Organization (TFO)-IDRC| Budget: CAD\$162,270.00

The Role of Information about Peer Behaviour on Tax Compliance in Nigeria: An Experimental Study

Commissioned by Institute of Development Studies (IDS)|Budget: USD\$17,996.00

Poverty Dynamics and Social Protection in Nigeria

Commissioned by Overseas Development Institute (ODI)|Budget: USD\$15,694.80

INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

CSEA wins the **RISE** Capacity Development Award

CSEA emerged winner of the RISE Capacity Development Award for its outstanding work on the Learning Trajectories Training in 2022. To celebrate the amazing achievements of the Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) community in supporting education systems in developing countries to overcome the learning crisis, the ROscar (RISE Oscar) award was designed to capture the three areas that have had the most impact which include capability development impact, academic impact and overall impact.



Training and Capacity Building



As part of our efforts to develop the capacity of staff and policymakers in Nigeria, we organized a two-day intensive workshop titled **“New tools for understanding the learning crisis in Nigeria”** in collaboration with Research on Improving Systems in Education (RISE) and Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. The workshop convened key stakeholders in education from the private and public sectors to introduce the concept of learning pathways amongst students and other modern approaches to understanding the range of learning difficulties in Nigeria.



We participated in **Evaluating Social Programs training organized by JPAL-Africa**. The training provided a thorough understanding of randomized evaluations and pragmatic step-by-step training for conducting evaluations. The Evidence-Informed Policymaking learning series also featured knowledge-sharing sessions on challenges and practical approaches to support evidence-based policymaking in Africa



For in-house capacity building, CSEA staff also participated in a **3-day training workshop** which was aimed at improving staff interpersonal communication skills, how to adhere to workplace ethics as well and skills for conflict resolution. Participants underwent a series of individual and group activity assessments to determine personality types and identify their unique conflict styles. The initial stages of the training set the tone with introductions between trainer and trainees and an explanation of ground rules to be adhered to. The workshop tasked staff on methods to improving communications between team members towards meeting shared objectives of the organization. The final session dealt with workplace ethics and the intricacies of a mutually beneficial relationship between an employer and its employees. Some of the topics of the workshop included Emotional intelligence, Professionalism and ethics in the workplace, Interpersonal communication and others.



We organized an interactive training session on **Debt Sustainability Analysis facilitated by Owen Wilcox, a principal consultant at Oxford Policy Management**. The training session provided knowledge of Debt Modelling as well as the IMF's Debt Sustainability Analysis framework. This framework consists of two complementary components: the analysis of the sustainability of total public debt and that of total external debt. The presentation included simulations using debt stock modeling and analyzing various outcomes. The training also included topics such as debt forecasting, computation of debt stock models and debt GDP ratio.



Outreach and Policy Engagement

National workshop on fostering productive capacities and structural economic transformation in Nigeria

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in collaboration with CSEA, organized a four-day high-level National workshop. **The policy event examined the role of productive capacities and structural economic transformation and how best it can be placed at the centre of Nigeria's national policies and strategies.** It also introduced UNCTAD's Productive Capacities Index (PCI) as the critical tool to measure sectoral gaps in domestic productive capacities and to subsequently formulate adequate policy responses and interventions. **The event consisted of a high-level policy session for policymakers, and statistical and methodological training sessions for selected experts on the Productive Capacities.** Key stakeholders such as senior government officials, national, regional, and international experts in the field of economic development and representatives of the private, academic and development sectors, were in attendance.



14th Africa Policy Circle Conference

The 14th Africa Policy Circle conference was held in Lagos, Nigeria on the 17th and 18th of November 2022. This year's theme, "Africa in the 2020s and Beyond-Challenges and Possibilities", provided a platform for participants drawn from think tanks across Africa to unpack some of the critical challenges affecting the continent's possibilities of economic recovery and ethical and political leadership.



CSEA organizes a conference on the Quest for Improved Data Governance in Africa in Accra

CSEA convened experts from the data space in Accra, Ghana, on November 16 to 17, 2022 for the conference tagged "The Quest for Improved Data Governance in Africa: Lessons on Regulating to Foster Innovation and Growth". This event which draws from and builds on CSEA's two-year study on data governance issues across Africa provided a platform for sharing lessons learned and discussing the next steps required to steer the continent in the right direction as it relates to data and technology governance.



2022 Global Development Conference

The 2022 Global Development Conference which was held in Clermont-Ferrand, France, from 2nd to 4th November 2022 with the theme 'Tax Policy for Sustainable Development, provided a platform for participants to discuss the role of tax systems in resource allocation, stabilization after shocks and inequality reduction through redistribution.



Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa

CSEA participated in the ninth edition of the annual Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa (FIFAfrica22) was convened by the Collaboration on International ICT Policy For East And Southern Africa (CIPESA), in Lusaka, Zambia, from September 26-29, 2022. The forum featured two days of network meetings and skills workshops that brought together a diverse range of stakeholders to deliberate on various aspects of Internet governance and the digital rights arena in Africa. CSEA's research associate, Kashema Bahago was a panelist in the session on Articulating the Business case for digital rights across Africa, hosted by CIPE. The session featured discussions on strategies that enhance the private sector's contribution to protecting human rights online.



RISE Dissemination Event

CSEA organized a multi-state dissemination event for the Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) project in Kwara, Oyo, Enugu and Bauchi states. The events provided updates on the activities of the RISE project across Nigeria as well as the research findings. It also served as a platform to collect feedback from participants who have either been engaged or have contributed to the research through focus group discussions, interviews and other data collection methods.



Tobacco Taxation Policy Dialogue

The Centre with support from the Knowledge to Policy Center (K2P) of the American University Beirut convened key stakeholders from the tobacco control space on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at the National Policy Dialogue on 'Promoting Effective Tobacco Taxation System in Nigeria'. The event included a plenary session where actionable steps and recommendations for the improvement of strategies for tobacco control in Nigeria were proposed.



Strengthening Women In Trade In The African Region Cross-Country Workshops

CSEA in collaboration with the Trade Facilitation Office (TFO) Canada organized the 3rd Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Women in Trade (WIT) titled “Strengthening Women in Trade in the African Region”, in Nigeria and Senegal. The events featured presentations to disseminate findings from its qualitative and quantitative research for women in International trade. While stakeholders from Senegal and Madagascar converged in Dakar, Stakeholders from Nigeria and Ghana convened in Abuja to discuss findings captured from the case study as well as SME survey findings of the research from these countries. It also provided policy suggestions that would support the inclusion of more women and address the binding constraints to women's empowerment in domestic and international trade.



CSEA participates in the COMPRA Review Conference

CSEA's Executive Director, Dr Chukwuka Onyekwena and Senior Research Fellow Mma Amara Ekeruche attended the review conference on the COVID-19 Macroeconomic Policy Responses in Africa (COMPRA) project. The COMPRA Project, funded by International Development Research Centre (IDRC), in collaboration with the South African Institute of International (SAIIA), was commissioned in August 2020. Partners from the six COMPRA countries attended the conference in order to assess the progress of the past two years and develop strategies for the future.



RISE Conference 2022

The two-day RISE conference was held at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, UK. Attendees also joined the proceedings virtually and in person at the regional conference hub in Abuja, Nigeria. The conference covered a range of themes under the broad umbrella of education systems thinking. It drew on research undertaken in RISE countries—Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Vietnam—as well as other developing countries. The event featured eight research sessions and one invited panel session.



Seminar Series: Nigeria Development Update – The Continuing Urgency of Business Unusual

CSEA hosted the World Bank team for the presentation of the recent Nigeria development update released by the World Bank in June. The presentation highlighted improved growth prospects for the year in tandem with the previous update. The presenters also identified the possibilities of lower revenue irrespective of higher oil prices. To address these key challenges, the report recommended three priorities including reducing inflation, addressing fiscal pressure, and catalyzing private investment to boost job creation.



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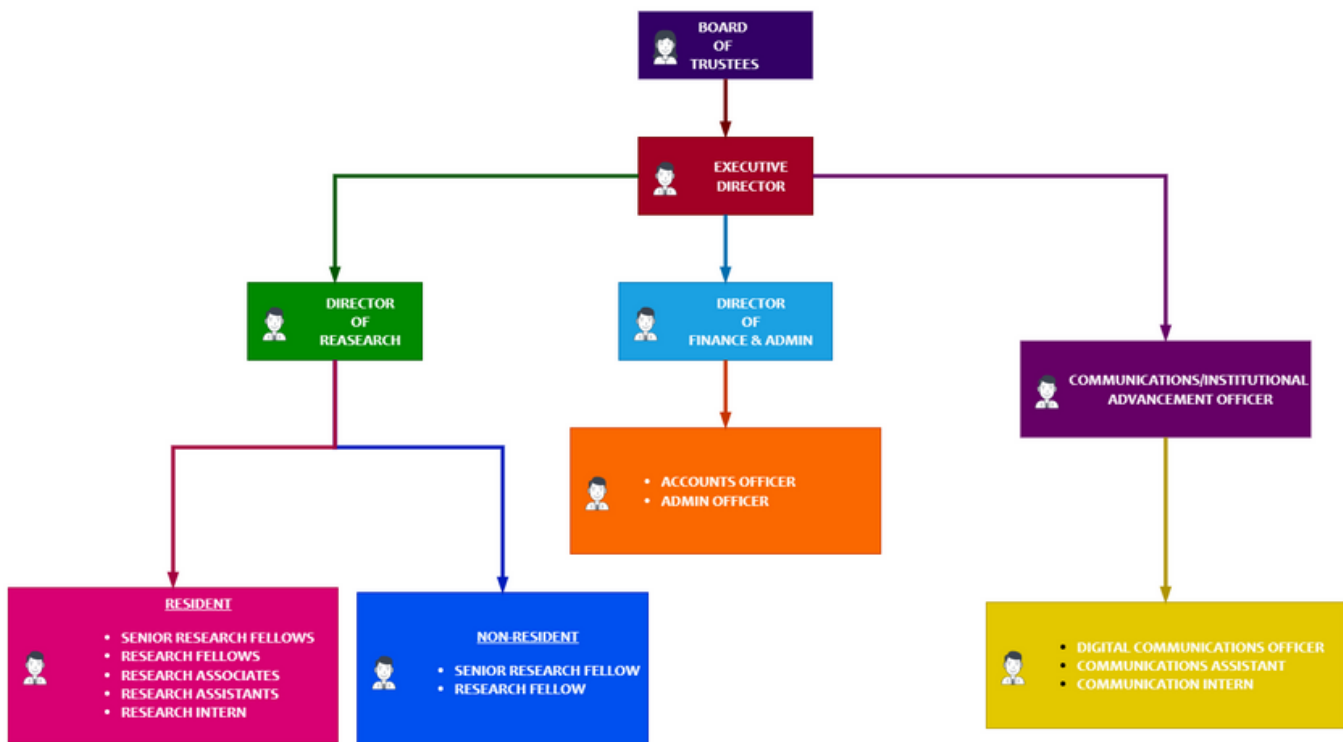


**MS. ZOUERA
YOUSSEFOU**

MEMBER RESOURCE MOBILIZATION
& PROGRAMMES COMMITTEE

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Overview of the centre's organizational chart and key departments



2022 IN NUMBERS



2,000+
@CSEA_Afric followers



60%
increase in
media mentions



36
Publications



24
Events

CSEA's strategic
communications ignite
important policy debates,
and influence development
policy and practices



More than
10,000
weekly newsletter subscribers



3,000+
Organic Followers



53
Weekly Economic Update

APPENDIX

Lists of 2022 Publications

S/N	PUBLICATION TITLE	RESEARCH AREAS	PUBLICATION TYPE
1	Five ways to build resilience in Nigeria's education system	Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth	Blog
2	How growing up during a Drought can affect Labour Opportunities later in Life	Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth	Blog
3	Resolving Debt Crises in Developing Countries: How Can the G20 Contribute to Operationalising the Common Framework?	Macroeconomics and Public Financial Management	Policy Brief
4	Policy Proposals for External Debt Management and Sustainability in Developing and Low-Income Countries	Macroeconomics and Public Financial Management	Policy Brief
5	Exchange Rate Volatility and Manufacturing Output in Ecowas Economies	Human Capital Development	Journal Article
6	Building socio-economic resilience in Nigeria by fostering productive capacities	Human Capital Development	Opinion Article
7	Shaping Responsible Data Governance Institutions in Africa	Global Economic Governance	Policy Brief
8	The role of Industries Without Smokestacks (IWOSS) in addressing Nigeria's unemployment crisis	Human Capital Development	Blog
9	Responsible Data Governance in Africa: Institutional gaps and capacity needs	Global Economic Governance	Project Report
10	Has economic growth reduced poverty in Nigeria? A critical analysis of the last two decades	Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth	Journal Article
11	The Boko Haram Conflict and Food Insecurity: Does resilience capacity matter?	Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth	Journal Article
12	Foundations for Pro-development Digital Governance Framework in Africa	Global Economic Governance	Blog
13	Podcast: Covid, conflict and oil – a Nigerian economic story	Human Capital Development	Blog

14	Recovering from COVID: Building Resilience in Select African Economies	Global Economic Governance	Policy Brief
15	Towards A Data-driven Agenda among Indigenous Businesses in Africa	Global Economic Governance	Policy Brief
16	Data-Driven Enterprises in Africa: An Evaluation of Winners and Losers	Global Economic Governance	Project Report
17	Fiscal Analytic Snapshot: Nigeria	Macroeconomic & Public Finance Management	Policy Brief
18	Africa: Opportunities for a robust COVID-19 recovery grounded on SDG 16	Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth	Policy Brief
19	Promoting an effective tobacco tax system to save lives and the environment	Human Capital Development	Blog
20	The Economic and Social Costs of Out of School Children in Nigeria	Human Capital Development	Policy Brief
21	Increasing Access to Quality Education for Rural and Marginalised Children In West Africa – A Comparative Study Of Accelerated Education and Girls Focused Programmes in Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.	Human Capital Development	Project Report
22	Maximizing Public Awareness for Participatory Data Governance in African Countries	Global Economic Governance	Project Report
23	Addressing lack of public engagement in Africa's data governance practices	Global Economic Governance	Policy Brief
24	New Digital Governance Platform: Why It Matters for Policymakers	Global Economic Governance	Blog
25	Harnessing the Potential of Demographic Dividend in Sudan	Human Capital Development	Policy Brief
26	The Quality of Budgetary Institutions in Africa: Exploring the Drivers	Macroeconomic & Public Finance Management	Journal Article
27	The Potential of Accelerated Education Programmes in Solving the Out-of- School Children and Youth Problem in West Africa	Human Capital Development	Policy Brief
28	AI & Gender – Bridging the gap	Global Economic Governance	Blog
29	The Long-Term Labor Market Effect of Drought Exposure: Evidence from Nigeria	Energy & Environment	Journal Article
30	Developing an effective data governance framework to deliver African digital potentials	Global Economic Governance	Blog
31	Curtailing State Extremism in Data Governance	Global Economic Governance	Policy Brief

32	Gendered Entrepreneurship, Social Media Platforms Influencers and Dietary Choices	Human Capital Development	Journal Article
33	Income Diversification and Agricultural Intensification of Rural Households in Nigeria: Synergies and Tradeoffs	Human Capital Development	Journal Article
34	Africa: Key issues to track in 2022	Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth	Blog
35	Ethnic Inequality and Anti-authoritarianism in Sub-Saharan Africa	Human Capital Development	Journal Article

CSEA Annual Report | 2022

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