



**Research in Quantitative Economics by National Research Centers:
Assessment for Kenya**

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Introduction

Since its independence in 1963, Kenya has played a leading economic and political role in East Africa and served as a site of intellectual, scientific and policy-oriented experiences aimed at securing economic and social development. This long tradition in which prominent international scholars, some of them future Nobel Prize winners, took part has helped to create and maintain scholarly pursuit of high standards in the African context, and facilitated a constant quest for appropriate economic policies. It is therefore legitimate to enquire about the capacity of today's Kenya to conduct quantitative economic research which is the cornerstone of informed modern economic policymaking. The purpose of the present study is to investigate the capacity of Kenyan research centers to conduct such studies and consequently to undertake impact evaluation studies.

The importance of impact evaluation studies cannot be overstated both with respect to policy formulation and for academic activity. Kenya has been the focus of many impact evaluation studies and it seems imperative to use their contributions in the pursuit of its economic and social development. The conditions under which this could be achieved also need to be explored. It is with these concerns in mind that the remainder of the report is organized as follows. In part 1, the sources of training of Kenyan economists are identified and assessed with respect to their capacity to provide students with adequate preparation for quantitative economic analysis. Then the profiles of researchers and research centers are surveyed. In part 2, the key determinant of the performance of Kenyan research centers are discussed and their potential impact on the future of the research industry is investigated. Finally, the practice, authors and contribution of impact evaluation studies are reviewed and measures to promote them, especially by targeting young researchers, are proposed.

Part 1. Descriptive analysis of quantitative economic research in Kenya

1.1. Training of economic researchers in Kenya

Kenya has a long history of higher education in general, and university training in economics in particular. The cornerstone of Kenya's higher education system is the University of Nairobi which is the oldest and most prestigious training institution in the country. While there are other public and private universities in Kenya that offer economics programs, the University of Nairobi is the only one whose programs can be deemed of international standards, which explains its status as a host institution of the Collaborative Master's Program in Economics of African English-Speaking countries. The School of Economics offers several degree-granting economics programs. At the undergraduate level it has i) the Bachelor of Economics, ii) the Bachelor of Economics and Statistics and iii) the Bachelor of Arts in Economics. At the post-graduate level the School offers i) the M.A. in Economics, ii) the M.A. in Economic Policy Management, and iii) The Ph.D. in Economics.

Table 1. Enrolment Statistics, School of Economics, University of Nairobi

	Undergraduate		M.A.	Ph.D.	
	B.Econ	B.Econ & Stats		CPP	Module 11
Male	472	485	145	6	32
Female	245	207	59	4	7
Total	717	692	204	10	39

Source: School of Economics, University of Nairobi

The Ph.D. program and the M.A in Economics are funded by AERC. Graduates of these two programs participate actively in AERC's bi-annual workshops. All the course contents of these two programs are determined by the Scientific Committee of AERC.

Table 2. Distribution of the staff of the School of Economics by Rank and Gender

	Male	Female	Total
Professors	3	0	3
Associate Professor	4	0	4
Senior Lecturer	6	3	9
Lecturer	19	4	23
Tutorial Fellow	2	0	2
Total	34	7	41

The School employs a total of 41 staff. The female staff include 3 senior lecturers and 4 lecturers for a total of 7 females out of 41, which represents 17% of the total. Only one lecturer, a female, and the two tutorial fellows are under 40 years old, which reflects the need for active recruitment of younger staff. Appointments and promotions are determined by the authorities of the University. The monthly salary structure is as follows:

Professor:	200,000 Kenyan Shillings
Associate Professor:	160,000 – 180,000 Kenyan Shillings
Senior Lecturer:	150,000 Kenyan Shillings
Lecturer:	100,000 Kenyan Shillings.

The School does not have a research program or a publication series, these tasks being devolved by the University to the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), the social science research entity of the University. However, the School is considering establishment of a research unit for its own staff.

1.2. Profiles of quantitative economic researchers in Kenya

For the sake of comparison with other countries in this study (Senegal, Mali and Ghana), the present survey on Kenya only covers public research institutions, and does not include consultancy research firms. The publications of research centers provide evidence of qualified and properly trained economists with adequate skills in quantitative analytical tools. Three factors explain the relatively high standards of the Kenyan research community. First, institutions of higher learning among which the School of Economics of the university of Nairobi offer world-class training programs that benefit a large number of students. In other words, the supply of competent economists is significant. Second, the labor market for economists is very competitive and salaries are high thereby retaining a large proportion of economists in the country and mitigating brain drain. The strong competitive spirit that permeates the climate among research centers creates emulation and vibrant collaboration with foreign research organizers, which constitutes a source of constant improvement in the quality of local researchers.

In many respects, Kenya is a researcher-friendly labor market that facilitates mobility and thus makes career choices possible. As a result, centers strive to provide their staff with adequate material working conditions and competitive compensation, staff retention being a major challenge for all managers. However, as in other African countries, the international presence of researchers expressed through publication in major scholarly refereed journals, participation in important international meetings and service on boards and editorial teams of international professional associations, are still lacking. The present survey of the publications of the centers has not identified publications of a theoretical nature. All the research studies focus on empirics, which is surprising considering the specificity of some of the developmental challenges faced by Kenya. The Kenyan research community is also relatively older than in other countries, with few employees under the age of 40. Typically, researchers under that age do not have a Ph.D. are at a junior level and often still in training. Perhaps, the relative attractiveness of the profession limits the mobility of more senior researchers thus reducing the opportunities of employment for younger researchers.

The practice of collaboration across Kenyan researchers of different institutions is rare and must be improved in order to strengthen the scientific community and give Kenya a higher international profile. However, individual researchers and their centers do not see such collaboration as a priority.

1.3. Economic research institutions in Kenya

Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR), www.ipar.or.ke

The Institute of Policy Analysis and Research was created in 1994 as a non-governmental research center to conduct economic research and policy analysis in Kenya. Over the years it has acquired wide national recognition and a high degree of credibility in the scientific rigor of its work and its independence from political interference or influence. Thanks to its location it has been able to recruit qualified Kenyan economists who have published more than 100 Discussion Papers on various topics ranging from economic policy management, governance to sectoral issues. In addition to the Discussion Papers, IPAR publishes Working Papers, Policy Briefs and Monographs that usually compile the works of large research projects. Its main focus is policy-relevant research and it conducts almost no academic research.

With respect to training, IPAR has an internship program targeted mainly at Government officials, and training courses that cover policy analysis, research methods, policy packaging and advocacy. These courses are open to researchers, Government staff and others. Links with policymakers are multifaceted. The Institute is invited to participate in policy fora and to submit proposals for Government consultancy contracts. Indeed, since 2004 attitude of Government has changed favorably and this has prompted a high demand for external research services. Furthermore, many senior officials are scholars, a new factor that facilitates relationships with the research community. IPAR occasionally includes Government staff in some of its projects to have easier access to data and strengthen the collaboration. However, it receives no funding support from Government but charges for its services. The Institute has a broad range of partners. These include the Brookings Institution, Transparency Accountability, UNESCO's International Institute for Education Planning (IIEP), Danida, IEA (Keya), the Center for Corporate Governance and the Center for Governance and Democracy. It receives grants from the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and IDRC's Think Tank Initiative (TTI).

Based on its publication record, the research staff of IPAR has proved to be very qualified and highly productive. Senior researchers hold Ph.Ds and participate actively in the life of the Institute.

Table 3. Distribution of IPAR staff by Rank and Gender

Rank	Males	Females	Total
Research Fellows	4	1	5
Assistant Research Fellows	1	0	1
Research Intern	1	0	1
Total	6	1	7

Source: IPAR

The annual salaries of research staff are as follows:

- Director: U.S. \$60,000 - \$80,000
- Senior Fellows: U.S. \$48,000 - \$60,000
- Fellows: U.S. \$36,000 – \$48,000

This level of compensation is competitive in the Kenyan context when compared to salaries at the University of Nairobi or even in the private sector. The working conditions are good for all staff. The Institute is located in a modern office building with sufficient work space and personal computers and software.

IPAR’s main projects include the following:

- Strengthening Institutions for Economic Growth and Take-off
- Recasting some of its projects under Vision 2020 and the New Constitution:
 - The Real Sector of Kenya
 - Devolved Institutions and Management of the Budget
 - Macroeconomic Management (Budget, Inflation, Exchange Rate)

The Institute’s main challenges can be summarized as follows:

- Retention of good researchers in the Kenyan context of high demand for research expertise; recruitment of good policy analysts and some impact analysts
- How to secure the long term predictability of funding.

IPAR as presented by IPAR

The Institute and Its Origins:

The Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR) is an independent, indigenous and non-partisan private organisation established in 1994. It is a non-profit body mandated to conduct data based social science policy analysis and research, and training, with the aim of improving human welfare. IPAR shares its policy findings with the government of Kenya, its development partners, private sector, and civil society. Indeed over the years, IPAR has built a reputation in translating and packaging technical information into forms that are easily accessible to a broad spectrum of stakeholders including government ministries and departments, local authorities, private sector, parliamentarians, donors, academia and research institutions, civil society organizations, the media, policy advocates and the general public.

The Institute's vision is to be a centre of excellence in policy analysis, research and capacity building. Its mission is to offer objective and evidence-based policy analysis and research outputs to governments, private sector, civil society organisations and development partners; sharpen skills of policy researchers and analysts; and empower communities to hold governments accountable. The mandate of IPAR is to undertake policy analysis, research and capacity building in Kenya and Eastern Africa; while its core values

are to conduct scientific evidence-based policy analysis and research and engage in policy discourse without influence from any stakeholder.

Since the inception of IPAR in 1994, the organization has been guided by its key objectives which are:

- *To undertake social science policy research relevant to Kenya's development;*
- *To establish and maintain an intellectual environment conducive to free, non-partisan discourse as well as policy oriented research;*
- *To develop the national indigenous capacity in objective policy analysis and formulation; and*
- *To maintain research talent within the country and help reverse the brain drain.*

Against these objectives, IPAR programs have focused on institutional development through the establishment of an autonomous policy analysis and research institute; development of policy analysis and research programs on public policy issues in Kenya; capacity building through apprenticeship and internship programs; dissemination of output through publications and various fora to inform decision makers as well as the private sector; and networking with various institutions and organizations with interest in public policy issues in Kenya.

Research Portfolio:

In the last quarter of 2010, IPAR conducted a research for the TETRA

TECH ARD through USAID funding on “Strengthening Community Monitoring of Public Procurement Activities in Kenya.” Jointly with PACT Kenya and the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), IPAR has conducted research on decentralised funding in Kenya and devolution in general.

For the European Commission in Kenya, the Institute has provided technical assistance to the project management unit in the Ministry of Local Government for the Rural Poverty Reduction and Local Government Support Programme (RPRLGSP). It has also conducted a comparative study of the Kenyan Constitutions jointly with the Christian Michelsen Institute (CMI) to provide detailed understanding of the constitution including contentious issues with a view to informing subsequent amendments and policy measures in future.

IPAR is also involved in the Distance Education Program on Education Sector Planning for the UNESCO – International Institute for Educational Planning; the Transparency and Accountability Program – Public Expenditure Tracking Survey for Secondary Education Bursary Fund for the Brookings Institute Inc. (Results for Development), Washington D.C; the Preparation of Uganda Country Report for the African Peer Review Mechanisms (APRM) for the NEPAD – African Peer Review Mechanisms and a study of the impact of the HIV/AIDS scourge on human resource in the Teachers Service Commission in Kenya.

Others include a comparative study for the Southern and Eastern Africa Policy Research Network (SEAPREN) on poverty alleviation in rural areas through improving access to financial services in four countries in Africa namely: Botswana, Namibia, Kenya and Tanzania. For the Department for International Development (DfID), IPAR assisted in the preparation of the IP-ERS Annual Progress Report for 2004/05 and Design of the African Peer Review Mechanisms preparation process.

IPAR prepared for the African Development Bank (AfDB) and Ministry of Planning – Kenya, an Institutional and Capacity Building Needs Assessment Studies for the Kenya Social Action Fund (KENSAF). In partnership with the University of Oslo (The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights), IPAR conducted an analysis of the nature of electoral politics in Kenya in relation to the 2007 Kenya General Election and published a book on the same.

Research Programmes:

Governance and Development: This programme seeks to strengthen democratic governance in Kenya and the East African region, to promote organizations of the Kenyan society and the East African region that are conducive to socio-economic development.

Macroeconomics Sector: The broad objective of this programme is to analyse macroeconomic policies and

their implications for the economy of Kenya.

Real Sector: Research in this sector focuses on the evolution of policies for promoting agricultural and industrial development. In the industry sub-sector, the research concentration has been on ways to enhance access to credit facilities by the Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).

Social Sector: Research in this sector aims at developing policies for resolving problems inhibiting the development of human capital in Kenya. Its research is focused in the areas of education and health.

Capacity Building: IPAR has been a major contributor to capacity building for young professionals seeking careers in policy research and analysis within government, private organizations, local and regional institutions.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF IPAR:

Governance and Management: IPAR has eminent members of the society in their board. It also has highly qualified staff and solid staff recruitment procedures. Through the relevance of its research agenda, the Institute has established its credibility, not only as a national Think-Tank, but also as a regional and international one.

Working with the Government of Kenya: The Institute's researchers work closely with Members of Parliament, who need data and analysis to make

more informed policy decisions. IPAR interacts regularly with specialized Parliamentary Committees, which invite the Institute to make presentations on policy issues of national importance.

Networking and Resource Mobilisation:

IPAR major funders for IPAR activities include the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada through the Think-Tank Initiative and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through PACT-Kenya.

Knowledge Management: The Kenya Knowledge Network (KNET) The Institute facilitates the sharing of knowledge on best practices, expertise, resource materials, lessons and experiences through the website www.kenyagrarnary.or.ke

Publication Record

Between 2002 and 2010, IPAR researchers published a total of 84 Discussion Paper series, 9 Working Papers, 5 Books, 3 Occasional Papers and 1 Special Report. With such a rich publication portfolio, IPAR seeks to continue with the trend through engagement of researchers in topical issues and publication of the research findings and policy briefs. The table below shows the publication statistics since 2002.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Discussion Papers</i>	<i>Working Papers</i>	<i>Books</i>	<i>Occasional Papers</i>	<i>Special Reports</i>
2002	4	0	0	0	0
2003	7	0	0	1	1
2004	21	4	1	0	0
2005	14	2	0	0	0
2006	14	2	0	0	0
2007	11	1	0	1	0
2008	7	0	2	0	0
2009	2	0	0	1	0
2010	4	0	2	0	0
<i>Total</i>	84	9	5	3	1

Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis; www.kippira.org

KIPPRA was established in May 1997, but started operations in June 1999, with a mandate to support public policy in Kenya by conducting public policy research and analysis and through capacity building. Its objective is to conduct objective research and policy analysis, help build the capacity of Government and private sector officers, develop and maintain research resources and databases for use by Government, the private sector and the public at large, disseminate research findings and serve as a policy focal point for Government, the private sector and civil society. KIPPRA was designed as an autonomous research institute that would help Government in the area of research and public policy analysis, formulation and implementation, responding to Government needs in a timely and professional manner and working closely with all policy circles.

In addition, KIPPRA carries out capacity building activities for Government officials and other stakeholders; it also organizes a Young Professional Program for Government staff and professionals who spend a year at the Institute as Interns. It delivers two courses on i) Public Policy process and ii) Applied Econometrics, Research Methods and a range of tailor-made courses, the most recent having focused on Use of Public Policy Process to such clients as Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission and Ministry of State for Public Service, and Macro-modeling. KIPPRA disseminates its work in a number of outlets that include Discussion papers, Working papers, Policy briefs, Occasional papers, Policy papers Workshop proceedings, training manuals and the Kenya Economic Report. It plans to initiate a book series (one every year). There is a broad range of topics covered in the Institute's research output: macroeconomic policy, finance, education, sectoral issues, industrial policy, etc.

KIPPRA enjoys a privileged relationship with Government which values the work of the Institute, seeks its views on key policy issues and commissions a considerable amount of work. As a result, KIPPRA works with most ministries, is involved in special projects such as Kenya Vision 2020, participates in the deliberations of many Government Task Forces and serves on 20-30 policy Task Forces or Working Groups every year. The Institute has strong collaborative ties with many partners: Brookings Institution (4 year program on i) Macroeconomic policy, Agriculture, Learning to Compete, and National Resource Issues), African Center for Economic Transformation, Penn State University (Traditional African Governance), Stichting Amsterdam Institute for International Development, Center for Social Development (Youth Saving Program), Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) of Tanzania and Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC) of Uganda and the East Africa Business Council. KIPPRA does not have partnership arrangements with other Kenyan research institutions but collaborates occasionally with lecturers as consultants.

It has managed to establish a strong collaboration with a number of donors including the Government of Kenya that funds up to 35% of the annual budget with a grant of 175 Million Kenyan Shillings in 2010. The other three key donors are ACBF with a 5-year grant of US \$2 Million, IDRC's Think Tank Initiative with CDN \$1.7 Million for 4 years and a 10-year

European Endowment that ended in December 2010. It has received project funding from IDRC, the World Bank, UNEP, Rockefeller Foundation and many other organizations.

KIPPRA's staff are mainly young with 90% aged less than 45 years. Ten researchers have a Ph.D. and 20 have a Masters degree. Most of the researchers are familiar with quantitative economic research with knowledge of econometrics or Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Modeling. The research output is of very high quality. Management seeks ways to help young researchers complete a Ph.D, a move that was recently approved by the Board. The program will start soon. The levels of annual salaries are as follows:

- Interns: U.S. \$12,000
- Assistant Analysts: U.S. \$18,000
- Analysts: U.S. \$21,600 - \$24,000
- Senior Analysts: U.S. \$39,000
- Principal Analysts: U.S. \$54,000.

All these salaries were recently reviewed for possible adjustment. Additional compensation schemes such as bonus for journal publication, leave, commuter and responsibility allowances have also been raised by management to secure a higher level of staff retention. KIPPRA staff enjoys excellent working conditions with individual office space, personal computers and a well-stocked library and documentation center.

Table 4. Distribution of KIPPRA staff by Rank and Gender

Rank	Males	Females	Total
Executive Director	1	0	1
Principal Analyst	0	0	0
Senior Analyst	3	0	3
Analyst	7	2	9
Assistant Analyst	10	8	18
Total	21	10	31

Source: KIPPRA

The Institute has a few ambitious goals. The first one is to achieve international excellence and become the Kenyan equivalent of the Brookings Foundation. The second one is to be

able to give a fast and educated opinion on key policy issues in order to meet Government's expectations and achieve a high degree of responsiveness. Finally, KIPPRA aims to have its own campus for added visibility and stronger institutional identity. Its main challenges include retention of the best staff, coping with the heavy demand especially the high transactions costs related to a myriad of small projects and the increasing space constraint for office space bearing in mind that employees are scattered in several locations thus hampering coordination and supervision. KIPPRA is not familiar with impact evaluation studies that are in line with the most recent methodologies and has never conducted one.

KIPPRA as presented by KIPPRA

The idea of establishing KIPPRA was muted during the early 1990s although the need to expand analytical capacity had been appreciated as far back as early 1970s. Kenya became an open field for technical assistance funded through donor assistance. To fill the gap, a Presidential Committee on Employment proposed the creation of an institute of policy research within the civil service in January 1991. The institute was to be autonomous but have an intimate working relationship with the government and private sector organizations. The anticipated institute was expected to promote continuous economic and social research.

At the time, it was recognized that a decline in social science research and policy analysis capacity in the public sector and universities had led to a decline in the capacity to design and implement public policy in Kenya. This state of affairs was compounded by the flight of remaining expertise from civil service to private sector opportunities triggered by economic liberalization. Despite many years of technical assistance from donors, such assistance often lacked relevance and had limited impact on the transfer of skills. There was also a tendency for experimentation and modelling with limited follow up. Public universities in Kenya went through a period of decline, and the resulting migration of the best personnel eroded the pool of national expertise in different fields, including policy research and analysis. There was, therefore, a clear case for the establishment of a public policy institute like KIPPRA.

KIPPRA was established under the provisions of the State Corporations Act through Legal Notice No. 56 of the Kenya Gazette of 9th May 1997. The Institute commenced operations in June 1999. In January 2007, the KIPPRA Bill was passed into law and the KIPPRA Act No. 15 of 2006

commenced on 1st February 2007. The enactment of the Bill firmed up the Institute's legal existence, outlining its statutory role, objectives and functions.

KIPPRA's performance since inception has validated the decision to establish it. It occupies a central role as the Government's main policy advisor on strategic policy matters. The main functions of the Institute as interpreted from the KIPPRA Act are to:

- a) Develop capacities in public policy research and analysis and assist the Government in policy formulation and implementation;*
- b) Identify and undertake independent and objective research and policy analysis;*
- c) Provide advisory and technical services on public policy issues to the Government and other agencies of the Government;*
- d) Communicate the findings and recommendations of the Institute's research programmes to the agencies of the Government concerned with the implementation of public policy;*
- e) Serve as a point of communication and encourage the exchange of views between the Government, the private sector and other bodies or agencies of the Government on matters relating to public policy research and analysis;*
- f) Collect and analyse relevant data on public policy issues and disseminate the findings to the stakeholders;*
- g) Develop and maintain a reservoir of research resources on public policy and related issues and make these available to the Government, the*

private sector and learning institutions in Kenya; and

- h) Organize symposia, conferences, workshops and other meetings to promote the exchange of views on issues relating to public policy research and analysis.

The Act specifically mandates the Institute, in consultation with the Ministry of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030; Ministry of Finance; and Central Bank of Kenya, to prepare and submit to Parliament, through the Minister for the time being in charge of Planning, an annual report (Kenya Economic Report) on the performance of the economy of Kenya for the previous fiscal year and economic prospects of the country for the next three years.

In its first decade of existence, KIPPRA has produced over 400 research papers and client reports covering various policy issues in different sectors of the Kenyan economy, and over 80 policy papers and policy briefs. The Institute has made over 20 directly requested commentaries on draft government policies designed without participation of KIPPRA. The Institute has also provided high level technical support to over 120 government taskforces and technical working groups, and held over 60 dissemination workshops and conferences with stakeholders. Further, the inaugural Kenya Economic Report 2009 was launched in October 2009 and placed before Parliament for debate. The report was given wide coverage by local and international media.

KIPPRA's papers have gone a long way in influencing public policy in Kenya. Some of the Institute's most high profile models, papers, reports, taskforces and other outputs of KIPPRA include:

- KIPPRA-Treasury Macroeconomic Model (KTMM)

- Study of appropriate pay for lecturers in public universities
- Finalization of the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation 2003-2007 (ERS)
- Implementation of the DfID-supported enabling business environment (umbrella project) that led to, among other things, the creation of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)
- Nairobi Metropolitan Strategy
- National Taskforce on Police Reforms appointed by the President
- Taskforce on tea sector
- African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) team
- Team that prepared Kenya Vision 2030 concept paper
- First National Energy Conference, organized in conjunction with Ministry of Energy, 7-9 October 2008
- Young Professional programme that has already trained more than 60 officers on public policy research and analysis
- Preparation of a report on costs and benefits of eliminating child labour in Kenya for ILO
- Participation in the preparation of Kenya Rural Development Strategy
- Participation in the Public Expenditure Review process
- Preparation of the Kenya External Aid Policy
- Measurement of core inflation

- *Impact of decentralized Funds*
 - *Petroleum products demand study in Eastern and Central Africa*
 - *Social budgeting initiative*
 - *Analysis of Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey*
- *Food security in the Nile Basin*
To entrench quality, KIPPRA was awarded ISO 9001:2008 certification in October 2010. This will ensure the Institute adheres consistently to international quality control standards.

Institute for Development Studies; www.uonbi.ac.ke/faculties/ids

The Institute for Development Studies was founded in 1965 as a multipurpose and multidisciplinary institute with the College of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Nairobi to promote development knowledge and debate, and encourage utilization of research findings in post-graduate teaching and training and in shaping the growth of development thinking, theory and practice. Its main activities are development research, teaching, training and advisory services on issues of policy, practical and academic concerns in the public and private domains. It houses researchers in the disciplines of economics, sociology, political science, agricultural economics, law, health, anthropology, population, finance, etc. In 2000, IDS started degree-awarding post-graduate M.A and Ph.D. programs in development studies. It also organizes infrequent short courses on topics such as Structural Adjustment Programs, Economic Policy and Child Labor. Efforts are aimed at making these short courses more frequent. IDS publishes a Newsletter, Working Papers, Occasional Papers, Policy Briefs and monographs. The research staff also presents its findings at international conferences.

IDS's dominant presence in the 1960s and 1970s during which it was the sole research institution in Kenya was illustrated by constant dialogue and continuous contact with policymakers. However, with the establishment of KIPPRA and IPAR, this position was diminished although the Institute collaborates with these two new centers. It has participated in a number of projects namely NEPAD, Motorization and Transportation in Kenya and Child Labor. It has also maintained a good relationship with many ministries. The staff serves on several boards in the country and overseas. Its collaboration with other centers includes King's College (Leadership Center), IDS (Sussex), Shanghai Institute for International Studies, the European Union (Water project), Trinity College, University of Copenhagen (Monitoring and Evaluation studies), IFAD, Manchester University and University of Leipzig. In Africa IDS works with the University of Cape Town, University of Ghana, Addis Ababa University, University of Mauritius. While it does not have formal collaborative ties with Kenyan institutions, IDS works with individuals affiliated with Moi University, Egerton University, University of Massena and organizations of Civil Society.

Table 5. Distribution of IDS staff by Rank and Gender

Rank	Males	Females	Total
Research professor	2	1	3
Associate research professor	2	1	3
Senior Research Fellow	1	4	5
Research Fellow	4	0	4
Junior Research Fellow	2	0	2
Total	11	6	17

Source: IDS

Its staff includes researchers in many social science areas and thus enriches the work of its economists. All its researchers except for two have a Ph.D. The Center has a deliberate policy aimed at ensuring continuity and orderly succession of senior researchers by the younger generation. IDS receives many foreign scholars on sabbatical leave and Ph.D. students. Researchers are employed by the University of Nairobi and subjected to its salary structure. The all-inclusive monthly salaries are:

- Professor: 200,000 Kenya Shillings
- Associate Professor: 160,000 Kenya Shillings
- Senior Research Fellow: 100,000 Kenya Shillings
- Research Fellow: 90,000 Kenya Shillings.

Appointment and promotion of IDS staff are made in accordance with the rules of the University of Nairobi.

The Institute receives an annual grant from Government through the University of Nairobi. Its budget for 2007/2008 totaled \$1.57 Million and was jointly funded by donors and the Government of Kenya. Additional funding is given by IDRC (CAD \$400,000 for 2 years), Ford Foundation (US \$350,000 for 2 years), DFID for the Chronic Poverty project (£800,000 for 5 years), DANIDA, JAICA, IFAD, the European Union, SIDA and UNDP. IDS is currently pursuing a few major objectives that are captured in its strategic plan. They include reformulation of its approach to training, revitalization of its resource mobilization efforts for which a manager will be recruited, improvement of its library and publications and construction of new facilities on three acres of land that are well situated. However, it

still faces insufficient funding, significant delays in the publication of books and papers, administrative inefficiencies that result from the red tape of the University that still manages the Institute's finances and frequent poaching of its researchers by local research centers. Finally, IDS seeks to shift some of the emphasis still placed on empirical research to more theoretical activity.

The Institutes reports some impact evaluation projects undertaken in collaboration with IFAD in a multidisciplinary modality. But it seems that it has not yet engaged in state-of-the-art impact evaluation projects although its staff could adequately carry them out with proper training.

IDS as presented by IDS

Background

The Institute for Development Studies (IDS) University of Nairobi is a premier multi-disciplinary and a multi-purpose development research institute in the Eastern Africa region. The Institute was established in 1965 as part of the University of East Africa for the purpose of engaging in full-time research on high priority areas of socio-economic development in Kenya, Africa and the world in general. The IDS has since inception produced over 1,035 publications. Most of the papers have been published as Working Papers or Discussions Papers. A few others have also been produced as Occasional Papers, Consultancy Reports and Staff Papers. In this regard, the Institute has played host to many research studies that have consequently led to the publishing of over 70 Occasional Papers, 600 Working Papers, 270 Discussion Papers, 20 Consultancy Reports and over 90 Staff Papers.

The Mandate of IDS

The mandate of the IDS as set out in the University of Nairobi Act is:

“To be a multi-disciplinary research organization focusing on development issues and application of research findings to national policy and post-graduate teaching; to foster collaboration with institutions with similar objectives elsewhere; to provide facilities that enhance intellectual exchange and collaboration among scholars; to network with and provide training, professional, advisory and consultancy services to the public and private development actors”.

These functions have ensured that the role of the Institute is fundamentally different from, although having a statutory status similar to, a teaching faculty. This is especially so with regard to the research emphasis, and the provision of professional consultancy

services to a variety of development actors, including the Government of Kenya.

The Institute’s approach to research has been guided by several objectives chief among them:

- *Policy relevance*
- *Need to generate interdisciplinary knowledge.*
- *Desire to establish collaborative networks synergies with other actors.*
- *Demand for academic publications*
- *Need to produce teaching materials*

Over the years, the IDS research priorities have largely been in rural and agricultural development; commerce and industry; management of natural resources; issues in urban development; and human resource development. The Institute has identified four thematic areas. These are: globalization and localization; population, environment and sustainable livelihoods; institutions and governance; and social inclusion and identity.

Academic Programmes

In response to the demand for highly skilled and specialized expertise in development issues, IDS launched the Master of Arts in Development Studies degree programme in the 2000/2001 academic year. The two-year programme covers a broad spectrum of issues in development theories, approaches, strategies, challenges and alternatives. Students choose from among five areas of specialisation, viz. Environment and Natural Resources Management, Development and Change in East Africa, Human Development, International Development and Planning for Development.

IDS began its PhD programme in Development Studies, with two students registered in 2002. Several applicants have presented their concept papers prior to being considered for admission. The programme has attracted a great deal of interest particularly from development practitioners.

Governance

The head of IDS is a Director who is appointed by the University. IDS has a board composed of the Director of the Institute, research staff, chairmen of social sciences departments of the University of Nairobi and representatives of relevant development agencies. The Director and a number of staff committees carry out the day- to- day management of the Institute. The Institute is a member of the University Senate where it is represented by the research staff.

Collaborations

IDS seeks to co-operate with other institutions, especially other universities and research organizations, in a variety of ways. Through its Research Associate Programme,

the Institute houses research scholars from both local and foreign universities and visiting scholars wishing to teach in its postgraduate programme. IDS also enters into formal collaborative agreements with other institutions. Such agreements may include collaborative research, exchange of teaching faculty, library exchange, shared workshops, and co-authorship of books and papers. Notable examples of such collaborations include longstanding relationships with the Centre for Development Research (CDR), Copenhagen and IDS Sussex, UK. Most collaborations involve researchers from IDS and other institutions co-operating informally before the institutions enter into formal collaborative agreements.

Institute of Economic Affairs, Kenya; www.ieakenya.or.ke

IEA's stated mandate is to « .. promote informed debate on key policy issues both economic and political and to propose feasible policy alternatives in these areas. In addition, the institute provides research backup to policy makers including members of parliament ». Its staff spend 60% of their time on research and 40% on advocacy. Its research activities are focused on four areas:

- Public finance with special emphasis on budgetary information programs. This includes research on budget and taxation, and support of legislators in their monitoring of the Executive branch of Government.
- International trade to monitor Kenya's openness. Kenya's trade commitments are monitored and results shared with non-Government stakeholders
- Economic regulation and competition. Assessment of the effectiveness of regulatory and competition policies on domestic actors
- Futures program. A prospective exercise on Kenya's long term future.

The Institute has a number of publications that include Research Papers, Policy Papers and Bulletins. IEA-kenya's research papers often involve descriptive use of data but in a few areas, the Institute has commenced more data-driven analysis including undertaking studies on Benefit Incidence Analysis and Cost Effectiveness Analysis in the areas of Education, Health and Water. In 2011, IEA-Kenya will consolidate this analytical work by starting policy simulations built on actual data. At the same time, the Institute expects to complete construction of an in-house Computable General Equilibrium Model within the first half of 2011. Through these initiatives, IEA-Kenya hopes to engage its researchers in rigorous

quantitative research that makes it possible to identify the respective merits of different policy choices.

IEA’s advocacy is based on utilization of its research output in order to influence policy and contribute to public education on the way a market economy works. Usually, it invites the media during the launch of its publications and prepares media notes distributed to journalists at breakfast sessions to enhance its effectiveness. The Institute’s link with policymakers is primarily targeted at Parliament and the executive arm of Government. It plays an active role in pre-budget hearings and post-budget meetings where it seeks to influence the outcome and maintains a privileged relationship with Treasury and the Ministry of Trade. IEA receives funding from a variety of donors including IDRC’s Think Tank Initiative (CAD \$1.2 Million for 4 years), Canadian CIDA (CAD \$350,000 for 4 years), Ford Foundation (US \$200,000 for 24 months), Rockefeller Foundation (US 200,000 for 2 years) and a number of standalone projects from GTZ and DANIDA. IEA pursues the policy of not receiving funding from the Kenyan Government in order to preserve its independence. It is currently exploring the possibility of working with the private sector on county profiles to be published in local newspapers. The proceeds will serve as seed money for IEA’s planned endowment fund.

The Institute works informally with consultants who are employed by local research centers and formally with a number of institutions including Tegemeo Institute of Egerton University, International Budget Project, the State University of New York (Suny-Kenya) Center for Governance and Development, the Global Development Network and Consumer Unity and Trust Society (India).

IEA employs 11 full-time researchers who are assigned to four research units: Trade, Futures, Budget and Regulation. All but three have Master’s degrees. The monthly salaries are US \$1,800 for Heads of Programs and US \$1,000 to \$1,500 for Research Officers. Working conditions of the research staff are adequate.

Table 5. Distribution of IEA/Kenya staff by Rank and Gender

Rank	Males	Females	Total
Research Fellow	6	5	11
Total	6	5	11

Source: IEA/Kenya

IEA aims to achieve a few key objectives. In particular, it seeks to improve the quality of its research and the capacity of its researchers to conduct data-driven analytical work,

especially in the area of impact evaluation. It also wishes to twin each of its four research units with a foreign organization and have joint research projects and publications. However, it faces the challenge of retaining its staff considering the highly competitive job market for economists in Kenya as well as having timely access to quality data as input for its research. Securing larger and stable amounts of funding over a longer period is also a goal being pursued.

IEA-Kenya as Presented by IEA-Kenya

The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA-Kenya) was established in 1992 and gained formal registration in 1994. Its founders intended for the institution to act as a forum for review of public policy by Kenyan professionals in light of resumption of plural politics and the undertaking to liberalize the economy. From its foundation, its membership was drawn from a diverse set of professionals who held public forums and meetings to identify and propose alternative policy choices based on a liberal orientation, recognition of the centrality of knowledge and policy dialogue. It sought to bring together through policy forums professionals of diverse views in the private sector, academia and public sector.

As an institution that emerged from a defined moment in Kenya's economic and political history, the IEA-Kenya's first publication concentrated on preparing an economic governance platform for the country owing to the possibility that a new government could be elected in the multiparty elections in December 2002. This publication was known as the Post Election Action Program and it sought to dissect and

clarify the policy choices that faced government in the new term.

Over time, the IEA-Kenya's work has been crystallized under four main research and policy dialogue areas including budget issues, international and regional trade, regulation and competition policy and the use of futures methodology to inform policy discourse, creation and reform.

Kenya's policy landscape has benefited from the active role played by the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA-Kenya) through policy relevant publications, facilitation of professional dialogue to identify alternative policy choices and by making informed legal, institutional and regulatory reforms. This service has concentrated on identifying policy actors in both the executive and legislative branches of government in Kenya due to the recognition of their implementation and oversight functions respectively. Added to the quest to build policy influence through dispassionate analysis with these arms of government is the recognition of the informed professional and Kenyan citizen. IEA-Kenya considers it as its indispensable obligation to facilitate involvement of

professionals in shaping the consideration of policy choices through informed debate. This is achieved through public education on the topical and significant policy issues, the management of public and economic affairs.

Among the IEA-Kenya's significant contributions to facilitating review and adoption of policy are:

- *Provision of analytical support to legislative committees in the area of public finance management in order to assist them to carry out functions of oversight*
- *Regular analysis bills which affect the functioning of the economy*
- *Annual analysis of estimates and the budget presented to the legislature*
- *Pioneering research in the place of competition law and policy in a modern economy*
- *Preparation of a draft law to provide a legal foundation for the privatization of public assets*
- *Hosting of regular public forums for professionals to make informed input into policy discourse*
- *Producing analyses on topical issues in Kenya's economy for public education and for advancing debate on policy alternatives*
- *Presenting concise and informed proposals for institutional and public sector reform*

African Center for Economic Growth (ACEG); www.aceg.org

The African Center for Economic Growth (ACEG) was created in 1998 to succeed the International Center for Economic Growth (ICEG), a Panama-based international research center on development. ACEG conducts research on socio-economic issues that affect Sub-Saharan African countries. It works with teams in over 26 countries. The Center also conducts consultancy missions on behalf of policymakers and the private sector. Its research work is disseminated through workshops, conferences and publications that include books, briefs and bulletins. ACEG works closely with several policymaking institutions including Kenya's Ministry of Planning and National Development, Ministry of Labor and Manpower Development, the Ministry of Finance and the East African Community. It has also established partnerships with the Institute of Development Studies of the University of Nairobi, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the East African Business Council and the Kenya Association of Manufacturers.

Instead of employing its own researchers, ACEG follows ICEG's business model and outsources its research work to external researchers for the duration of each project. Currently, it has no core grant and no in-house researchers. Its main objectives are captured in the six thematic areas in which it wants to conduct research and advocacy activities. The areas are Poverty, Equity, Private enterprise development, Regional integration, Good governance and Trade. In order to achieve these objectives the Center aims to secure more consistent funding and attract young researchers.

Innovations for Poverty Action – Kenya (IPA/Kenya), www.poverty-action.org

IPA is a research consortium based in New Haven, Connecticut, USA, that carries out randomized impact evaluations studies throughout the world with a few country offices located in Africa. Kenya hosts the oldest and largest African branch. Its main activities include research on a number of development-related issues. In 2010, the list of on-going projects was: Dispenser Scale and Sustainability; Barriers to Fertilizer use in Kenya; Urban Micro-Insurance Project; WASH Benefits Project; Community-Financed Dispenser; Financial Access Impact Measurement; HIV/AIDS Education in Western Kenya, Kenya Life Panel Survey; Credit Constraints Among Small Retail Establishments; Credit, Change and Lost Sales Promoter Monitoring and Incentives; Mumias Information, Welfare and Advances; Multiple Use Water Systems. Of the 14 projects listed only one has a principal investigator based in Africa, at Moi University. All other principal investigators are affiliated with universities in the United States or Canada. In addition IPA/Kenya has 200 full time staff who perform mainly support functions and provide logistics and research assistance to researchers.

Although training is not a major activity of IPA, skill enhancement is routinely conducted for IPA staff, graduate students who spend time at the Center to carry out research and some internships are organized for recent graduates. IPA works closely with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Massena. IPA aims to scale-up some of its research projects through collaboration with the Kenyan Government. But enhancement of the links with policymakers remains a major challenge. Its staff publish its research output in the media, on the website and in scholarly journals. The Center is significantly funded by most international donors. Its biggest funders are the World Bank, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID and DFID. IPA's policy is not to pay researchers for their work. However, enumerators, program managers and other administrative staff are salaried.

1.4. Links between policy and research

The Government of Kenya and Kenya's Parliament have, for a long time, been aware of the benefits of economic research as an input for policy. This is illustrated by the establishment and regular funding of KIPPRA by the Government of Kenya, the budgetary support of IDS and the continuous partnership between Kenya's Parliament and IEA/Kenya. By virtue of its mandate, KIPPRA conducts significant research at the request of Government. This constitutes a strong basis for dialogue between policy and research. However, other institutions do not enjoy an equal degree of partnership with policymakers. The overall situation gives diversity in the field of research and provides a plurality of actors that portrays a climate of independence and depth in the research community. It is also noteworthy that Government, through the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank, recruits many researchers in the ranks of research centers in what is in reality a one-way staff mobility process.

1.5. Donors' support for quantitative economic research in Kenya

Except for ACEG, all surveyed research centers benefit from substantial donor funding. KIPPRA, IPAR and IEA/Kenya are grantees of IDRC's Think Tank Initiative (TTI). Many other donors provide either core grants or project funding at a level that facilitates a reasonable volume of activity. Some institutions participate in international research initiatives that are also additional sources of financing. The review of the sources of funding of Kenyan research centers shows a large number of donors that intervene in the country thus providing a fair degree of diversity in funding. However, many centers hope to secure larger and more predictable financing to facilitate their long term planning. IPA/Kenya is a special case because its research is carried out by researchers mostly based overseas with very competitive compensation packages offered by their respective universities. Local staff of IPA are paid with the proceeds of the grants received from foreign donors. The Government of Kenya is also a donor because it provides budgetary appropriations to KIPPRA and IDS on a regular basis.

Part 2. Performance of economic research in Kenya

2.1. Degree of adequacy of human and financial resources

The economic research community can be considered one of the best endowed in Sub-Saharan African with respect to the number and quality of its researchers and given the performance-enhancing competitive climate in the country. The existence of real opportunities for mobility gives researchers a strong incentive to excel at the individual level. In other words, Kenya has qualified economists for its policy needs and the research output on policy-oriented research gives strong evidence for it. However, academic research and its corollary, publication in world-renowned journals, is rather weak and, in some respects, confines Kenyan researchers to a vibrant but local labor market. The number of graduates produced by the University of Nairobi seems adequate for sufficient supply of qualified quantitative economists for the country's needs. It is also noteworthy that synergies that could arise from collaboration between researchers affiliated with different institutions is hardly exploited, which limits the capacity of each research center to what its internal capacities allow it to do. While this situation does not prevent Kenyan research centers from collaborating with foreign institutions, the relatively modest status of their researchers on the international scene forces them to often assume a non-leading role in such international collaborative arrangements.

With the exception of ACEG that is currently in transition, all research centers have a fair degree of stable funding that is consistent with continuity and short to medium term planning. Indeed, KIPPRA, IPAR and IEA/ Kenya benefit from grants of the Think Tank Initiative. Furthermore, all the centers manage to secure direct financial support or engage in international partnerships that include some funding support for them. The desire of all the managers of research centers to retain their research staff indicates that the level of financial resources necessary to pursue such a policy is either available to them or within reach. Nonetheless, no Kenyan research center has the financial means to carry out impact evaluation studies without additional funding inflows of a magnitude unseen so far.

2.2. Brain drain

None of the center managers expressed concern over brain drain as a potential threat. The profile of individual Kenyan researchers who seem to satisfy the exigencies of the domestic market and benefit from the relatively high levels of salaries serves as a deterrent from massive emigration abroad. While there are isolated cases of Kenya-trained economic research who opt to emigrate, most Kenyans who work overseas were trained outside the country and chose not to return to Kenya. It is therefore reasonable to question the capacity of local researchers to compete internationally and gain employment in advanced economies at the same rank they have in Kenya.

While brain drain is not a major concern, retention of staff is a serious challenge given the attractiveness of salaries offered by non-research institutions such as international organizations and some branches of Government including the Central Bank of Kenya. Loss of quality staff by centers to other domestic institutions may not harm the country but

can significantly undermine the competitiveness and reputation of affected centers. This situation is compounded by the Government's policy of funding its own research centers (KIPPRA and IDS) but not the other centers which gives the impression that it views research output not as a public good, but a proprietary commodity that could be influenced through funding.

2.3. The external environment of the economic research community

Kenya has the largest economy in East Africa and is the leading country in the East African Community (EAC). Its economic performance affects that of its neighbors and, over the years, it has developed a vigorous policy debate fuelled by domestic pluralistic partisan politics, active participation of the private sector and civil society and a strong presence of international development organizations. As a result, Kenyan research centers face a large and complex demand for policy research that they may not be able to satisfy consistently. However, research institutions express a strong desire to cater to these needs while, at the same time, at least for some of them, hoping to participate in the global academic debate in order to maintain their scientific credentials. This is a difficult trade-off to manage in the Kenyan context given the financial sacrifices that academic pursuits carry.

For the Kenyan non-research community, the output of research centers is relevant and useful and is the object of constant solicitations. Indeed, the market for economic consultancy is lucrative and has spawned a strong industry of private consultancy firms that compete with research centers for good researchers. Kenyan research centers enjoy significant autonomy and freely choose their strategies, research direction and publication policies without any visible external interference. Consequently, the research community has the potential of being fully integrated in Kenyan society while still managing to play a significant role by providing a public good that is deemed useful, credible and affordable.

2.4. Managerial capacity and organizational structure

The vibrant policy debate in Kenya and competitive climate of the research world exact heavy demands on the managerial skills of leaders of research centers. This applies to resource mobilization, personnel management, capacity to communicate and disseminate, long term planning and search for partnerships. Yet, all center managers are researchers and not a single one of them is a professional manager. However, they are helped by boards of directors who guide, supervise and sanction the activities of the centers. Nonetheless, the time of senior researchers who also serve as managers could arguably be better used if professional managers were recruited thereby increasing the research capacity of the centers. Some centers are currently facing temporary difficulties that may originate from lack of managerial capacity at the top. It is noteworthy that all centers have a written strategy and consistently refer to it when asked about the direction of their activities.

The structure of Kenyan research centers is rather common and varies only according to the staff size, some being internally organized in divisions at various degrees of formalism. In all centers decision-making prerogatives are highly centralized and in the hands of the Director who enjoys a high degree of discretion in the allocation of resources, but often

under the supervision of a Board. This flexibility is a valuable asset given the competitive climate in Kenyan research environment but could also be misused through incompetence or abuse. This concentration of powers at the top can also be disruptive in cases of unprepared resignation or dismissal of the manager because the center can suffer considerable loss of institutional memory.

2.5. Institutional development

It is striking that, with the exception of KIPPRA, no center reported growth in size as an institutional objective. This may not mean that size does not matter to them but perhaps that their immediate priorities lie elsewhere. The three main challenges related to institutional development are volume and predictability of funding, retention of staff and improvement in the quality of research or publications. Centers do not seem to seek or pursue a specific niche that would set them apart; they all focus on mainstream economic policymaking and explore opportunities for foreign collaboration in the same area, despite the potential for innovation of such partnerships. In addition, centers are acutely aware of the need to be responsive to the need of their target audiences but lack a sense of vision through clear identification of future policy challenges that they could tackle either to resolve or signal to other actors. In other words, the main aim of centers in institutional development is to establish themselves as important players in the Kenyan policy-oriented research setting and maintain such position in the foreseeable future, without any ambition to shape that future.

2.6. Quality and continuity of relationship with policymakers

Of all the research centers surveyed in this study, only KIPPRA, which is owned and primarily funded by Government, has substantive and continuous relationships with policymakers. Others participate in the policy debate as independent institutions that seek to influence the policy process through a combination of actions that include forging of partnerships with Parliament, the media and some influential groups. The plurality of policy stakeholders combined with the diversity of research centers creates a vibrant atmosphere for research-informed policy debate and formulation. The independence of several research centers that, in some cases refuse to accept Government funding, bestows a sense of objectivity and credibility to all the research community including Government-sponsored institutions. In conclusion, Kenyan policy stakeholders seem to be well served by the research community; but this community needs to adopt a long term strategy that will transcend the need to satisfy immediate demands and embrace a more visionary stance as well as endeavor to get closer to international academic standards for added credibility and relevance.

Part 3. Impact evaluation studies in Kenya

3.1. The current state of impact evaluation studies

Kenya is by far the African country most subjected to impact evaluation studies. Over the last 6 years, nearly a quarter of all impact evaluation studies were conducted on Kenya. They focus on areas as diverse as health, agriculture, education finance, water and sanitation, etc. Almost all the studies are conducted by Innovations for Poverty Actions (IPA) by a group of principal investigators who are not Kenyan but rather affiliated with universities in the US and Canada. The breadth of the topics being studied covers almost all the key development challenges of the country. In spite of the large number of impact evaluations being carried out, Kenyan policymakers do not seem to benefit from their output and these studies play no significant role in the current policy debate. Furthermore, the total absence of Kenyan researchers affiliated with the research centers being surveyed shows that impact evaluation studies are not commonplace nor do they arouse the interest of the research community.

3.2. Challenges of capacity building and capacity utilization

IPA reports that in 2010, its 14 impact evaluations studies being conducted in Kenya were staffed by the most prominent experts in the field and affiliated with institutions such as Harvard University, MIT, University of California Berkeley, University of Maryland, UCLA, Emory and Georgetown University. In other words, the best expertise is applied to studies in Kenya without involvement or training of Kenyan researchers. This is a missed opportunity that needs to be urgently remedied. The need for Kenyan researchers to build capacity in impact evaluations cannot be overstated and Kenyan policymakers and other stakeholders need the output of such studies as valuable input in the policy process. This situation points to the strong imperative of training young Kenyan researchers in impact evaluation methodologies and using that capacity to scale up the studies and make better use of local knowledge. It would be a major accomplishment to achieve this goal in the near future.

Conclusion

Kenya has a university system that offers adequate training of economists with quantitative skills that prepare them to be competent researchers. The University of Nairobi's School of Economics plays a vital role in this respect and provides enough graduates to supply a vibrant market for policy-oriented research. Research centers have established a high level of domestic credibility that is backed by a steady stream of publications and active participation in the policy debate. However, Kenyan researchers seem mostly focused on the domestic environment and do not participate in the international economic research through publication in international scholarly journals, presentations at international scientific meetings or assumption of senior posts in professional organizations. This limits their potential for foreign emigration and capacity to lead large international research initiatives. The high salaries offered to local researchers and the opportunities for

employment outside in non-research institutions force center managers to seek ways to retain their best researchers in order to remain competitive.

Kenyan research centers enjoy a reasonable amount of funding and provide their staff with adequate working conditions. But they consider that it is imperative to secure a higher level of funding that is also more predictable in order to comfortably engage in long term planning. Centers do not collaborate with each other and actively seek to establish partnerships with foreign institutions although such opportunities are not used to innovate or pursue specific niches in their work. They practically all do the same type of research on very similar topics. Impact evaluation studies are routinely conducted in Kenya by foreign research teams on a variety of topics that have considerable policy relevance. But almost no Kenyan researchers or indigenous research center participate in these studies, which underscores the need to arouse their interest in such studies. In this respect, young Kenyan researchers could be targeted for training on impact evaluation methodologies and enlisted onto teams that could undertake impact evaluation projects, thereby enhancing their skills, facilitating their own academic research, providing them with additional funding and giving them a voice in the dialogue between policy and research in Kenya.

List of institutions and persons visited

Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR)

- Prof. Njuguna Ng'ethe, Executive Director a.i.

Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis; www.kippra.org

- Dr. Moses Ikiara, Executive Director

Institute for Development Studies (IDS)

- Dr. Mohamud Jama, Director

African Center for Economic Growth (ACEG)

- Prof. Masai Wafula, Senior Research Fellow
- Mrs. Nyokabi Mwange, Office Administrator

School of Economics, University of Nairobi

- Dr. Jane Kabubo Mariara , Director

Institute of Economic Affairs, Kenya (IEA/Kenya)

- Mr. Kwame Owino, Chief Executive Officer

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)

- Dr. Karen Levy, Senior Director IPA Africa

Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM)

- Mrs. Betty Maina, Executive Director

African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)

- Prof. Olu Ajakaiye, Director of Research

International Development Research Center (IDRC)

- Dr. John Okidi Senior Program Officer, Think Tank Initiative.