

United Nations University

World Institute for Development Economics Research

Annual Report 2022



UNU
WIDER



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Foreword by the Director



Partnerships have always been crucial for UNU-WIDER's work. The last few years living amid a global pandemic have been a good reminder of the value of our trusted friends and partners all around the world, both personally and professionally.

The theme of this year's annual report is partnerships. With that, we wish to celebrate our partners, old and new, and highlight some of the unique collaborations we have managed to build over the years. UNU-WIDER's research and policy work address many of the global challenges of our time: conflict and peacebuilding, poverty, inequality, and structural transformation. We would not be able to succeed in our mission without our strong network of partners.

In 2022, we were excited to continue our collaboration with the National Treasury of South Africa as we launched the second phase of the Southern Africa - Towards Inclusive Economic Development (SA-TIED) programme. In addition to our ongoing partnership with the European Union, this year we were proud to add the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office as our partner in this exciting programme.

It was wonderful to finally continue our in-person trainings with the customized, country-specific SOUTHMOD simulation models that enable researchers and policymakers to test different tax and

social protection policy solutions. We were also delighted to have Rwanda as the latest country to join our SOUTHMOD family.

Another very exciting new engagement in 2022 was teaming up with Cambridge University Press on the brand-new Cambridge Elements in Development Economics series. In November, we published our first titles in this series of authoritative studies on important topics in the field, made especially for digital access.

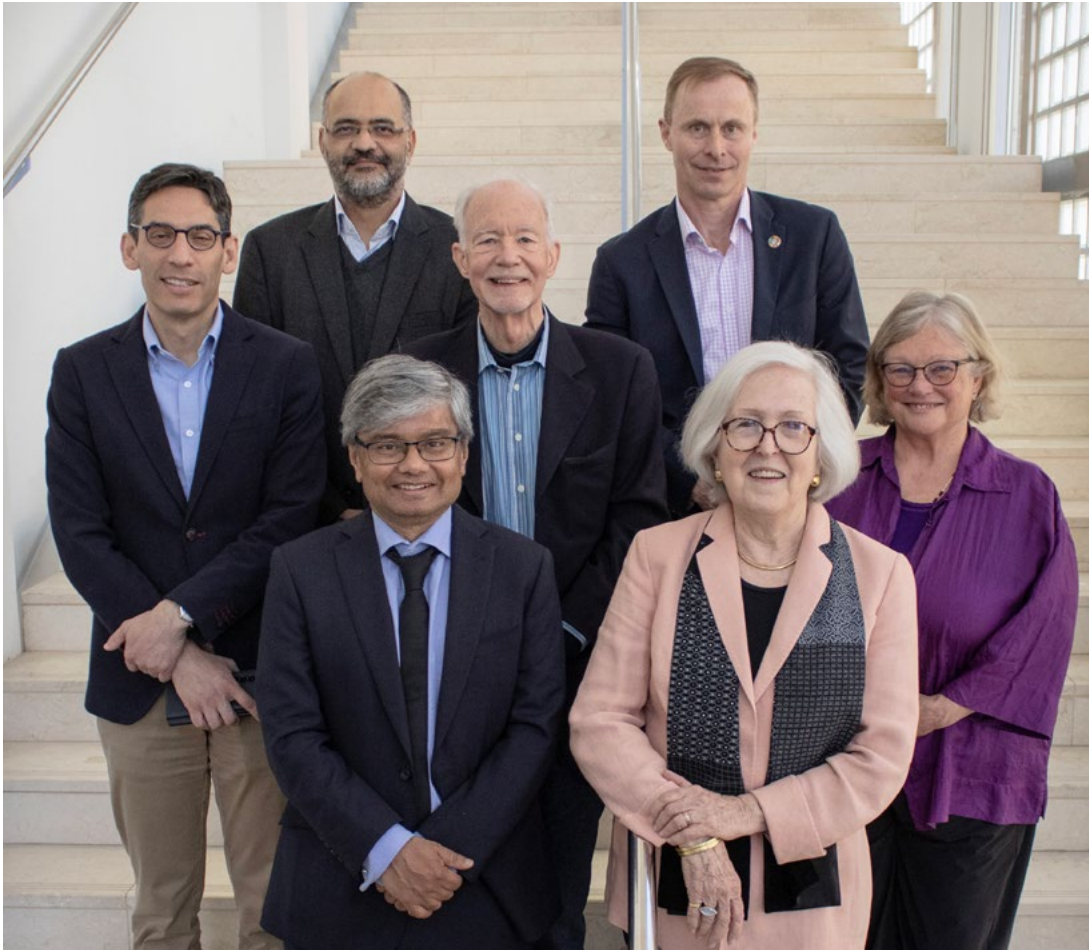
We are tremendously grateful to our long-term partners, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. It is thanks to their ongoing support to our work, in collaboration with our network, that we were able to achieve the results highlighted in this report.

2023 is set to be a memorable year for UNU-WIDER as we conclude our current work programme and focus on synthesising the key results from the last four years of research. I look forward to the knowledge sharing, discussions, and debates in our many events we have planned for the coming year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kunal Sen'.

Kunal Sen
Director, UNU-WIDER

WIDER Board 2022



Third row, from left: Haroon Bhorat, Antero Klemola,
Second row, from left: Miguel Urquiola, David M. Malone, Jo Beall
Front row, from left: Kunal Sen, Martha Chen
Missing: Ann Harrison

CHAIRPERSON

Prof Martha Chen

Lecturer in Urban Policy and Design
Harvard Graduate School of Design, USA
Senior Advisor at Women in Informal
Employment: Globalizing and Organizing
(WIEGO), MA, USA

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Emeritus Professor and Distinguished
Research Fellow
London School of Economics and Political
Science (LSE), UK

Prof Haroon Bhorat

Director of the Development Policy
Research Unit
University of Cape Town, South Africa

Prof Ann Harrison

Dean of Haas School of Business
University of California, Berkeley, USA

Dr Antero Klemola

Director of the Development Evaluation Unit
Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Helsinki, Finland

Prof Justin Lin

Dean of Institute of New Structural
Economics
Peking University, Beijing, China

Prof Miguel Urquiola

Dean of Social Science and Professor of
Economics
Columbia University, New York, USA

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Annett Victorero

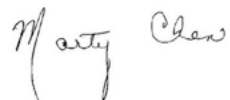
Head of Knowledge Mobilization Unit

Message from the Chair of the WIDER Board

Around the world, 2022 brought us not only new variants of the COVID-19 virus, but a rise in prices, interest rates, and in dangerous populist right-wing politics. Despite these difficulties, 2022 was a banner year for UNU-WIDER as they convened two major conferences on key development challenges of today—peacebuilding and reducing inequality—all fueled by partnerships small and big, old and new, to work together toward common goals.

I have been impressed with the joint research initiatives with academic and policy organizations that UNU-WIDER has continued to develop in 2022. The country programme in South Africa moved to its second phase, as the government was keen to continue their collaboration with UNU-WIDER. New alliances in knowledge sharing with the Bank of Finland and the City of Helsinki deepened the Institute's connection to its host country, Finland—something that we on the WIDER Board gladly welcome.

As UNU-WIDER approaches the end of its current five-year work programme on Transforming economies, states and societies, work on synthesizing the research findings and policy lessons from this important initiative has already begun. For this and other reasons, 2023 is set to be an exciting year for UNU-WIDER. I especially look forward to the publication of a joint UNU-WIDER and WIEGO volume *COVID-19 and the Informal Economy: Impact, Recovery and the Future*, the result of a research partnership I had the pleasure of collaborating on.



Marty Chen

Chair, WIDER Board

Lecturer in Urban Policy and Design, Harvard Graduate School of Design
Senior Advisor at Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)



Partnerships with Global South governments improve development policy and support achieving the Global Goals

In Mozambique, Tanzania, South Africa, Uganda, and elsewhere, UNU-WIDER is on the ground to support national development plans, collect and create data for economic analysis and national and international policy processes, and build the capacity of government officials to develop national economies and provide for the welfare of their people.





This work is carried out through several long-term UNU-WIDER programmes, in unique project constellations fit to local contexts, developed together with local partners, and uniquely responsive to local priorities and other context-specific dynamics. When speaking to people engaged in these programmes, they often attribute the projects' major successes to key features of UNU-WIDER's programme design that deliberately differ from other institutes and agencies.

These programmes are built on the strength of the WIDER network and developed in partnership with government departments, ministries, international institutes, and local and international universities. Here at UNU-WIDER we refer to them as our 'country programmes'.

The country programmes do three things really well. They build and support local capacity to undertake economic research and analysis and feed this evidence into the national economic policymaking process. They undertake research, support major surveys, and develop datasets, methods, and tools to create an evidence base upon which good economic decision-making can rest, expanding the academic frontier in the process. And, they work with ministries to ensure that economic research is relevant and useful to policy formulation. All of this creates real and demonstrable impact and helps

Global South countries respond effectively to the often incredibly difficult development challenges they face.

The capacity to respond effectively to development challenges

Two of UNU-WIDER's longest engagements are with Mozambique and South Africa. Both the Inclusive growth in Mozambique (IGM) and Southern Africa - Towards Inclusive Economic Development (SA-TIED) programmes are partnerships with economic policymaking bodies and are now in the second phase of their implementation. In South Africa, one highlight of the programme was the development and release of South Africa's administrative tax data for research and economic policy analysis, which made South Africa the first on the continent to develop this capacity.

The success of this effort has inspired other governments in sub-Saharan Africa to follow suit and UNU-WIDER is now engaged in similar projects with Zambia, Tanzania, and Uganda, where a new data lab was launched in 2022.

The country programme in Mozambique partners with the National Directorate for Economic Policies and Development, the unit inside the Ministry of Economy and Finance that is responsible for producing analysis for development policy and coordinating the country's national development strategies and five-year plans.

The IGM programme also supports the Ministry of Economy and Finance to produce national poverty reports based on regular household budget surveys and the national census with a methodology the

programme helped develop to estimate aspects of multidimensional poverty in Mozambique and trends over time. This index is now a criterion for budget allocations on the provincial level and was used by the government to design emergency social protection measures during COVID-19. These efforts support the country's capacity to gather, access, and analyse key economic data critical to achieving Mozambique's poverty reduction goals and SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

IGM also carries out important economic surveys to support the creation of a strong evidence base for other kinds of development policy. Surveys of Mozambican manufacturing firms provide critical information to the government about the private sector. Another survey follows university and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) graduates to help the government reduce labour market frictions and support youth employment critical to the economic development of the demographically young country.

IGM helped develop and update the ministry's Quadro Macro tool, which is used to conduct macroeconomic analysis and planning that national medium-term fiscal frameworks are based on, to elaborate annual budgets, and in discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Specifically, it was work carried out by IGM that enables the Quadro Macro tool to account for important new revenues Mozambique is expected to receive from its natural resources, such as the recently discovered natural gas reserves in the north of the country. These highlights also include the trainings, events, and employment opportunities these programmes provide to local early-career researchers, which

build the future human capital capacity these governments need to continue to conduct their own research, analysis, and policy formulation.

Giving developing countries the right tools to create informed policy with SOUTHMOD

The ongoing SOUTHMOD collaboration develops, maintains, and trains policymakers and official analysts in tax-benefit microsimulation models. Through SOUTHMOD, we work closely with government stakeholders to use these country-specific microsimulations models to create better policies.

These models simulate the effects of various tax and benefit policies on the national population's wellbeing and on government budgets. This enables policymakers and researchers to conduct very specific cost-benefit analyses of various policy options. For example, these models help policymakers find the most budget-neutral (or inequality-neutral) way to provide emergency relief to rural populations during a food crisis, vulnerable populations after a natural disaster, or the entire population during a global pandemic.

Like SA-TIED and IGM, the SOUTHMOD project is in its second phase. Through SOUTHMOD, UNU-WIDER now hosts eight national tax-benefit microsimulation models, partners with Southern Africa Social Policy Insights (SASPRI)—which hosts two additional ones for South Africa (SAMOD) and Namibia (NAMOD)—and is developing a ninth model in a partnership with

the Rwanda Revenue Authority that began in 2022.

Convening South African agencies to open dialogues — a model for the region

SA-TIED—which embarked on its second phase in 2022—is a collaboration between the National Treasury of South Africa, the South African Revenue Services (SARS), and UNU-WIDER that secures and anonymises tax data collected annually by the revenue services. This work brought international researchers, experts from local universities, and analysts and officials from National Treasury and SARS together in ongoing dialogue.

The programme built a secure data center inside the National Treasury to enable economic analysis of the tax data—which includes information on the earnings and employment of individual taxpayers and on the revenues, jobs, and tax receipts of formal firms—and facilitate evidence-based policymaking.

It provided employment to students and early-career researchers and economists in the data lab, supporting the development of South Africa's future policy analysts.

An important outcome of SA-TIED's tax data work is the interface it created between economic researchers outside of government bodies and the policy officials inside of them, but also between government agencies. With communication channels opened, researchers and analysts can learn directly from policymakers what research they need to make

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good decisions for the country, feeding into the policy discussions that directly impact South Africans.

The research conducted by SA-TIED, for example, was an important part of national discussions around tax reforms aimed at reducing inequalities and supporting the national budget, the recent implementation of a national minimum wage, and the government's active employment policy targeting youth unemployment in South Africa. Both administrative tax data analysis and tax-benefit simulations conducted with SAMOD provided evidence for policy formulation and ongoing fine-tuning of policy during implementation.

When COVID-19 struck, the formulation of South Africa's new benefit transfers to provide emergency relief also relied on evidence created under SA-TIED. Incredibly, the new transfers that South Africa implemented reduced poverty in South Africa even during the economic downturn.

Looking forward

Looking forward to 2023 and beyond, UNU-WIDER will continue to work with partners in the Global South to achieve the Global Goals. By increasing the usage of the SOUTHMOD models, Global South policymakers gain better tools to create policies to provide better services. Improvements of administrative tax datasets in South Africa will further support public revenues and economic growth in the private sector. The work to finalize the administrative tax datasets and undertake important analysis with the data continues in Zambia, Tanzania, and Uganda. The exciting work being done in UNU-WIDER's country programmes continues to demonstrate the power that partnerships can bring to solving development challenges.

When speaking to people engaged in these programmes, they often attribute the projects' major successes to key features of UNU-WIDER's programme design that deliberately differ from other institutes and agencies.



Partnering for development

At UNU-WIDER all our work is implemented through partnerships, collaboration, and co-creation. Through those connections, we make a meaningful contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the key development challenges of our time. We act as a facilitator for debate and engagement between our partnering researchers, institutions, and policymakers. These collaborations are fundamental to how we manage the complexity of development issues in the Global South. By bringing different institutions and people together, we strengthen our mutual understanding of the themes in our work programme and turn knowledge into action.

In the past year, the following questions were central to our work: How can we build more effective partnerships between research and policymaking institutions? How can we make sure that sound research informs policy decisions? How can we help ensure that data is being used optimally to make these decisions? So, what did we learn?

SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals — bridging the divide between ideas and action

SDG 17 has been our anchor in answering these questions because it identifies partnerships as being key to achieving all the other SDGs. We can use strategic partnerships to bridge the divide between the policymaking and the research environment. Bridging this divide is no small task. One way that we contribute is by bringing down the barriers between policymakers and researchers in the early stages of our projects.

A good example of this strategy to ensure impactful knowledge flows is our tax work with the sub-Saharan African revenue authorities. Strengthening these authorities' capacity to generate domestic revenue with the co-creation of new tools, methodologies, trainings, and databases are ways that we contribute to their hard work of policy formulation and implementation. In turn, these collaborations help us gain a deeper understanding of domestic revenue mobilization challenges in the region, while also contributing to a larger body of research that can be used by other governments and institutions across the region and beyond faced with the similar challenges.

As a ‘thought partner’ and sounding board, we bring important insights while contributing to policy decisions fully owned by local governments.



Connecting people and institutions by building trust

Trust is crucial to the success of these partnerships, and building trust between people and institutions takes time, resources, and an honest and active engagement with clear communication and goal setting. Often such collaborations start from the early stages of a project and can scale up to a much larger collaborations, as we have done with the Inclusive Growth in Mozambique (IGM) and the Southern Africa – Towards Inclusive Economic Development (SA-TIED) programmes. Now, several years into their evolution, these programmes continue to contribute to the policy environments in Mozambique and South Africa. These partnerships, built around the nexus of cutting-edge research, policy engagement, and capacity development, demonstrate their value by delivering high-impact outcomes. We are all thankful to the donors who give these complex programmes the time needed to achieve ambitious goals.

Being a thought partner

UNU-WIDER’s role has never been to prescribe to governments what policies to implement. Rather, our role is to provide a set of options based on sound research and show what potential consequences those policies will bring, and the tools to analyse these alternatives. As a ‘thought partner’ and sounding board, we bring important insights while contributing to policy decisions fully owned by the local governments. This is how UNU-WIDER can provide value to the UN system as one of its premier think tanks. Our experts are called to make important contributions to UN processes for new and innovative ideas on how to tackle the development hurdles we are faced with.

Moving forward

UNU-WIDER’s current work programme ends in 2023, so we’re now in the process of defining our new framework for 2024–2027. This year brings us an opportunity to reflect on the learning and findings

from the current work programme together with our stakeholders and think about how we can take these partnerships to the next level while further extending our connections around the themes of our future work.

UNU-WIDER has a great potential to increase its work on co-creation of research and policy analysis between researchers and policy actors in various policy settings, thus bridging the gap between high-quality research and policymaking and providing solutions to our pressing development challenges. To do that, we’ll need a stronger presence in and closer collaboration with actors on the ground in the Global South. This will lead to new possibilities and shape the way we operate, and we will need to think about how to maintain our institutional agility in these new contexts. Based on the resilience and accomplishments demonstrated during the past year, We are confident that we are up for that challenge.



Working together on the puzzle of peace - the role of partnerships

When the theme for the first WIDER Development Conference of 2022—peace, security, and conflict—was chosen some years ago, no one could have predicted how close to home the topic would be. As we welcomed our conference guests to Helsinki on that day, everyone’s thoughts were with our Ukrainian neighbours, whose country, only around 1000 kilometres away, had been invaded by Russia some months earlier.

War drives poverty

Achieving peace remains an urgent challenge. Almost two billion people currently live in fragile and conflict-affected countries, an increase of almost 30% over the last decade.

Ending conflict, achieving peace, and promoting development are closely interlinked, and we cannot make significant progress on one without also working on the others. Armed violence and lack of security have a destructive impact on a country’s development and its institutions and economy for decades to come. While poverty has been reduced across the globe since 1990, it has increased in conflict-affected countries. Wars are one of the most significant drivers of poverty in the world today.

Focus on researching solutions

Successful statebuilding and sustaining peace in conflict-affected countries means understanding the drivers of conflict and its impacts, both during and after a period of conflict. UNU-WIDER has a long history of research in this area: we started studying war and humanitarian emergencies back in the 1990s. In our current work programme, SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions, is one of our focus development goals. Our project on institutional legacies of violent conflict investigates how and why violent conflicts persist in modern times and what can be done to reduce the risk and impact of violence. To do that, we bring together experts from several disciplines—economists, political scientists, data scientists as well as conflict experts—to advance knowledge about conflict-affected settings and map entry points for successful interventions to sustain peace and economic recovery.

Bringing together research and policy audiences

International cooperation and solidarity have never been more important than now. The SDGs can only be realized with strong global partnerships, which is the essence of SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals, and another important focus of our work programme. Governments, civil societies, and communities need to work together to implement lasting solutions to reduce violence, deliver justice, combat corruption and ensure inclusive political participation in societies recovering from conflict.

The United Nations has a significant role in connecting local, national, and global actors. UNU-WIDER's strength in this is its ability to bring together research and policy audiences. Our WIDER Development Conferences provide an ideal forum for that.

'A better working relationship is needed between experts in the fields of conflict management and development', said former President of Finland and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Martti Ahtisaari in his opening speech of our first peace and conflict-themed conference in 2004. Despite some remarkable advances, this still holds true today.

The puzzle of peace - towards inclusive development in fragile contexts conference was attended by over 1000 scholars, policymakers, and practitioners either in person or online. Every participant shared a joint interest in addressing the pressing challenges in peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery. Each session was an opportunity for them not just to share research, but to learn about the challenges practitioners experience, to discuss how research can support policymaking, and to form new partnerships in peacebuilding efforts.

Partnerships in peace

We could not be doing the important work we do without strong partners, with whom we share the same desire to find better solutions to support countries experiencing conflict. Indeed, conflict resolution and peace mediation have been long-term priorities for the sponsors of our current work programme, Finland, Sweden, and Norway, further illustrating how closely aligned our goals are.

In addition to our donors and their national institutions, we are continuously collaborating and exchanging ideas with expert groups and organizations working in this space. For example, since 2004, we have teamed up with the Households in Conflict Network (HiCN) to advance academic research on the effects of violent conflict.

More recently, we started a new academic collaboration with Conflict Research Network West Africa (CORN West Africa) to support young scholars interested in peace and conflict research in African countries.

Indeed, the year 2022 was highly successful in strengthening our partnerships in peace. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland played a strong role in our Puzzle of peace conference, alongside the CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, Centre for Peace Mediation and other Finnish actors such as The Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA).

Our peace research network is reaching to all corners of the world through our cooperation with major global institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and various UN agencies, including United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). We are also increasing our collaboration within the UNU family, with exciting new joint initiatives with our sister institutes UNU-CPR and UNU-MERIT.

Working together to advance research on the legacies of conflict and the pathways to sustainable peace will continue to be on UNU-WIDER's agenda, and we look forward to working with partners old and new in the future.



2022 highlights

FEB

EXPERT COMMENTARY: [UNU-WIDER starts a series of expert commentary blogs related to Russia's attack on Ukraine](#)

Drawing from our network of experts in conflict, peacebuilding, energy, and many other sectors, we publish 14 blogs between February and May on topics related to Russia's unprovoked military offensive on Ukraine, attracting thousands of readers.

PARTNERSHIP: [New tax research collaboration in Rwanda](#)

The signing of an MoU with the Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) marks the beginning of a new collaboration for research using the national administrative tax data and to develop a tax-benefit microsimulation model for Rwanda in order to improve the tax and social protection system in Rwanda.



JOURNAL ARTICLE: [Measuring global poverty before and during the pandemic](#)

New UNU-WIDER research on shifts in global poverty is picked up by the development media worldwide. The research reveals that as much as 2/3 of the data used to measure global poverty are estimated based on assumed changes to old data.

MARCH

PRESENTATION: [Embedding poverty and inequality reduction in the early stages of the policy and project cycle](#)

UNU-WIDER presents on data measurement on poverty, inequalities, and Leave No One Behind (LNOB) at a dialogue between researchers and practitioners organized by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The results feed into identifying data and measurement improvements needed to meet the pledge to leave no one behind.



MAY

PARTNERSHIP: [SA-TIED Phase II launched](#)

The Southern Africa – Towards Inclusive Economic Development (SA-TIED) programme, a partnership between UNU-WIDER and the National Treasury of South Africa supporting inclusive policymaking in South Africa, moves onto its second phase. At the launch, the Minister of Finance says that South Africa's COVID-19 response was in part informed by the research and analysis produced by the SA-TIED programme. UK's FCDO joins as a new partner in the programme.

CONFERENCE: [The puzzle of peace – towards inclusive development in fragile contexts](#)

The first of the two WIDER Development Conferences in 2022 gathers 250+ conflict experts in Helsinki, bringing together academics, policy practitioners, and development specialists to discuss new research and current policy challenges in preventing and resolving conflicts and sustaining peace across the world. In addition to the in-person participants, more than 800 people join the two-day hybrid conference online.



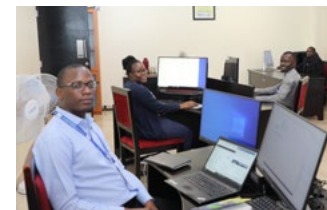
COLLABORATION: [Sustainable cities discussion forum](#)

The City of Helsinki and UNU-WIDER team up to host an inspirational series of discussion forums to highlight some of the goals and work being done to achieve the SDGs. At the first event—focused on SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth—the Chair of the WIDER Board Marty Chen speaks on the role of informal work in our transforming economy. The lecture is held at the Helsinki City Hall and livestreamed to a large online audience.



COLLABORATION: [Launch of the URA secure research laboratory](#)

In collaboration with the Ugandan Revenue Authority (URA), UNU-WIDER establishes a secure data lab that makes the URA administrative tax data available for researchers to investigate policy-relevant research questions in Uganda.



JULY

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT: [UNU-WIDER Winter School on tax policy research](#)

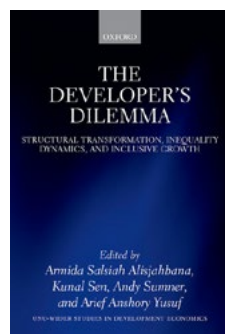
27 researchers from 13 African countries take part in an intensive course on tax policy research organized by UNU-WIDER and co-hosted by Stellenbosch University in South Africa. The course aims to provide African researchers with an understanding of the theories, methods, and data availability for conducting high quality analysis on tax and development economics.



2022 highlights

AUGUST

BOOK: [The developer's dilemma - Structural transformation, inequality dynamics, and inclusive growth](#)
New UNU-WIDER Open Access book *The developer's dilemma* reflects on the challenge that developing countries face during periods of economic development—the tension between building a productive economy and the unequal distribution of the benefits of economic development. In October, editor Kunal Sen attends the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) office in New York to present key findings and policy lessons from the book.



SEPT

ALUMNI: [UNU-WIDER launches alumni programme](#)
UNU-WIDER announces a new programme for its former PhD Fellows, Visiting Scholars, research collaborators, and personnel who share a unique experience of learning and working together as the people behind the Institute's research and operations. The programme provides its members with an opportunity for lifelong engagement with the Institute and the growing UNU-WIDER community.



OCT

CONFERENCE: [Reducing inequality – the great challenge of our time](#)
In partnership with Universidad de los Andes (UNIANDES), UNU-WIDER convenes a three-day conference on reducing inequality in Bogotá, Colombia, from 5–7 October 2022. The conference is attended by almost 400 local and international experts from 49 countries. The event provides a forum to discuss best practices of reducing inequalities, with a focus on local experience.

ANNUAL LECTURE: ['In the name of progress: Will technology solve inequality?' by Daron Acemoğlu](#)
The WIDER Annual Lecture continues in its tradition of presenting groundbreaking research with renowned economist Daron Acemoğlu. The livestreamed event is organized in collaboration with UNIANDES, and closes the three-day 2022 WIDER Development Conference Reducing inequality – the great challenge of our time.



CONFERENCE: [Debt and innovative finance in developing countries](#)
Leading experts and scholars from various finance and development institutes as well as academia gather in Helsinki to discuss the way out of the debt trap for developing countries in a two-day event organized by UNU-WIDER and the Bank of Finland Institute for Emerging Economies (BOFIT). Notable speakers include Nobel Laureate Bengt Holmström. The event is livestreamed to the public.



NOV

PUBLICATION: [UNU-WIDER launches new series: Cambridge Elements in Development Economics](#)
The new series publishes authoritative studies on important topics in the field covering both micro and macro aspects of development economics. Published in partnership with Cambridge University Press, the series combines the best features of books and journals, made especially for digital access. All titles will be available Open Access online.

CONFERENCE: [IGM Annual Conference 2022](#)
Entitled 'Private sector dynamics and well-being in Mozambique', the annual conference of the Inclusive growth in Mozambique programme focuses on the challenges of the private sector. Held in Maputo in hybrid format, the event gathers a wide audience of local and international academics, policymakers, development practitioners, the local private sector, and civil society. Event partners include the University of Eduardo Mondlane, the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Mozambique, and the University of Copenhagen.



PRESENTATION: [UNU-WIDER coordinates a meeting with UN heads of agencies in Mozambique](#)
UNU-WIDER Director Kunal Sen and Deputy Director Patricia Justino presented results of the current work programme to the heads of UN agencies in Mozambique.

DEC

CONFERENCE: [The challenge of creating better jobs in developing countries](#)
UNU-WIDER partners with the World Bank, IZA (Institute of Labor Economics), and the Network on Jobs and Development, on the annual Jobs and Development Conference, this year hosted by the Development Policy Research Unit (DPRU) in Cape Town, South Africa. The partnership model of the conference allows for a rich variety of experts from around the world to exchange ideas and attempt to answer pressing questions related to the jobs challenge in low- and middle-income countries.



2022 in figures

262 publications



Journal articles	47
WIDER Working Papers	175
WIDER Background Notes	2
Book chapters	24
WIDER Technical Notes	5
WIDER Reports	9

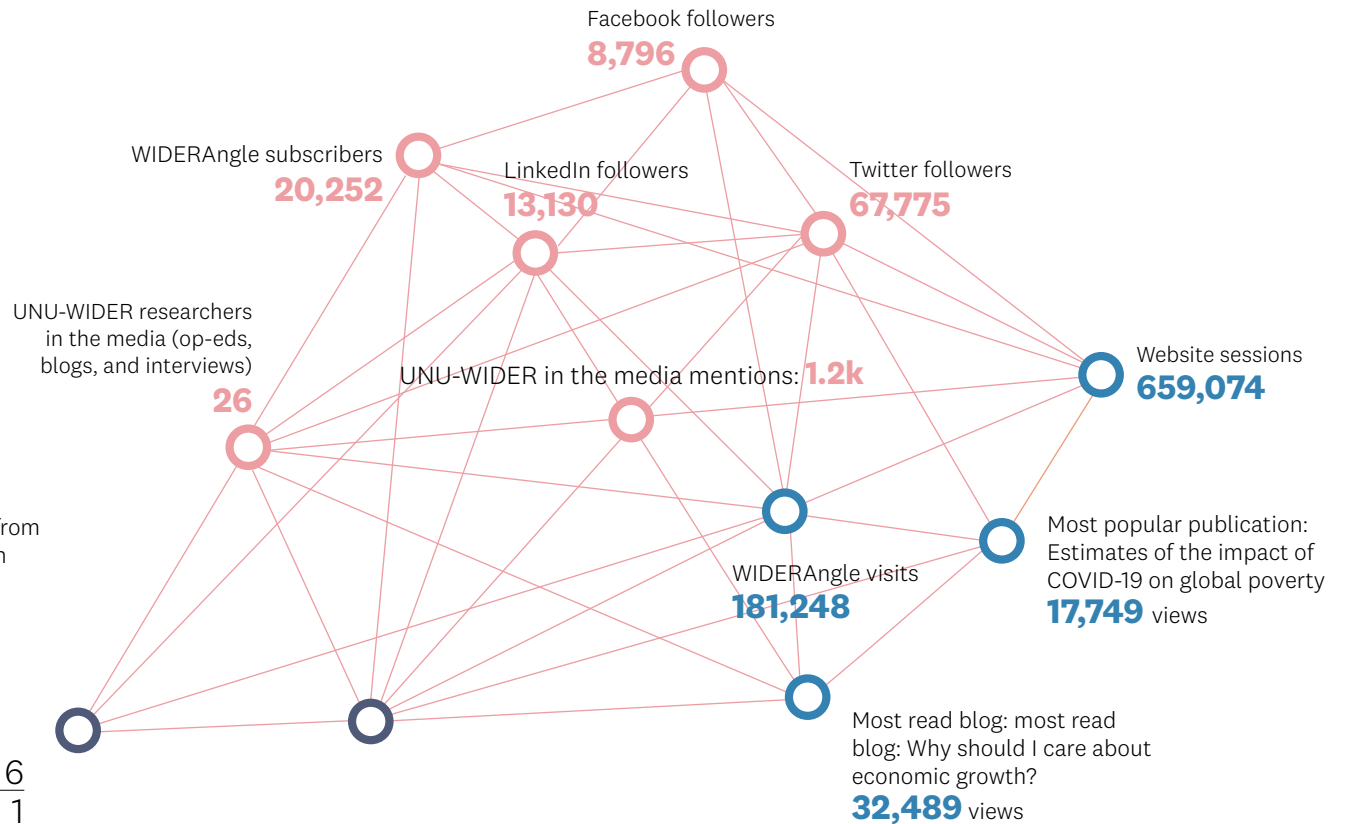


61%
co-authored by women

37%
co-authored by a researcher from and based in the Global South

155 events

Large conferences	6
WIDER Annual Lecture	1
Policy workshops	11
Research seminars	49
Project workshops	15
Technical trainings	19
Presentations	54



321 participants in technical trainings



39%
women

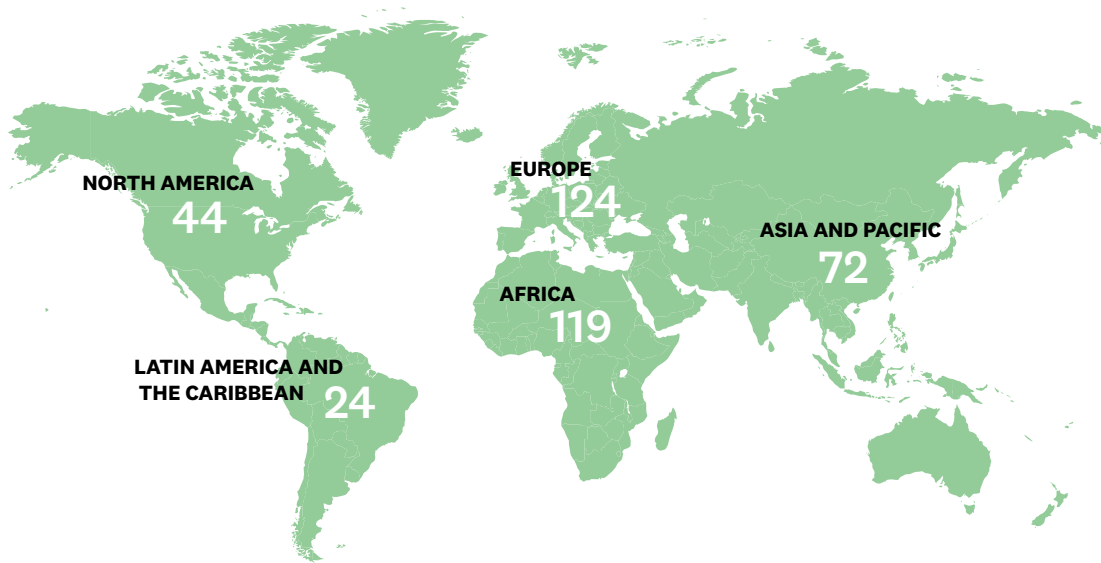


97%
nationals of Global South countries

2022 in figures



Nationality of the 383 external researchers contributing to UNU-WIDER projects



58
different nationalities



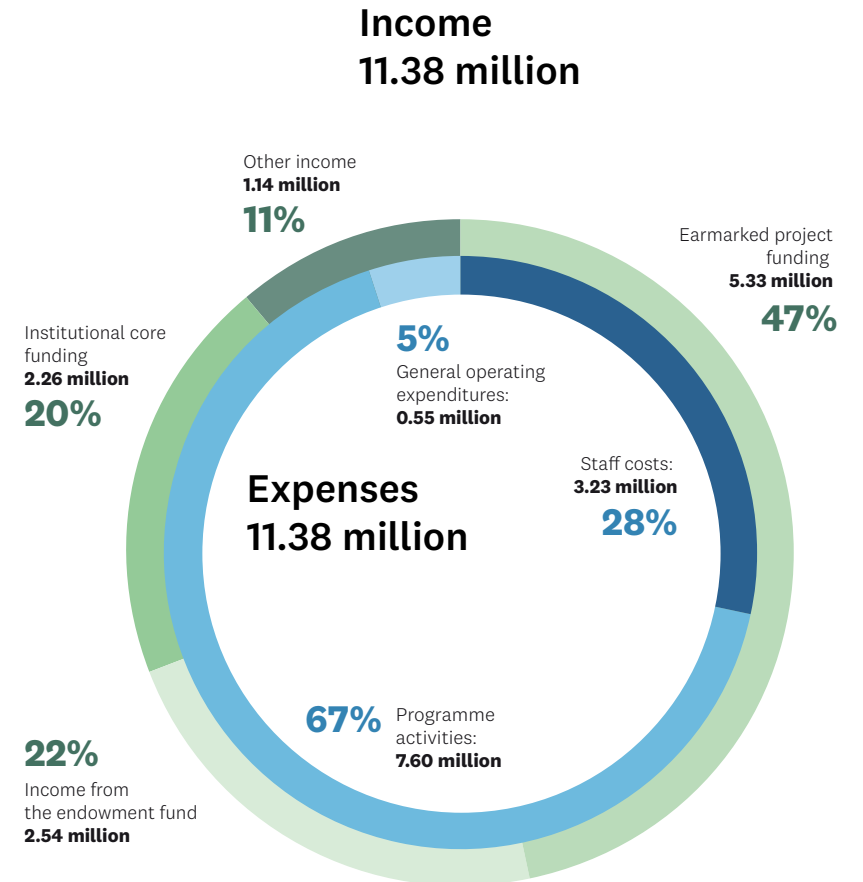
33%
are women



56%
nationals of Global South countries



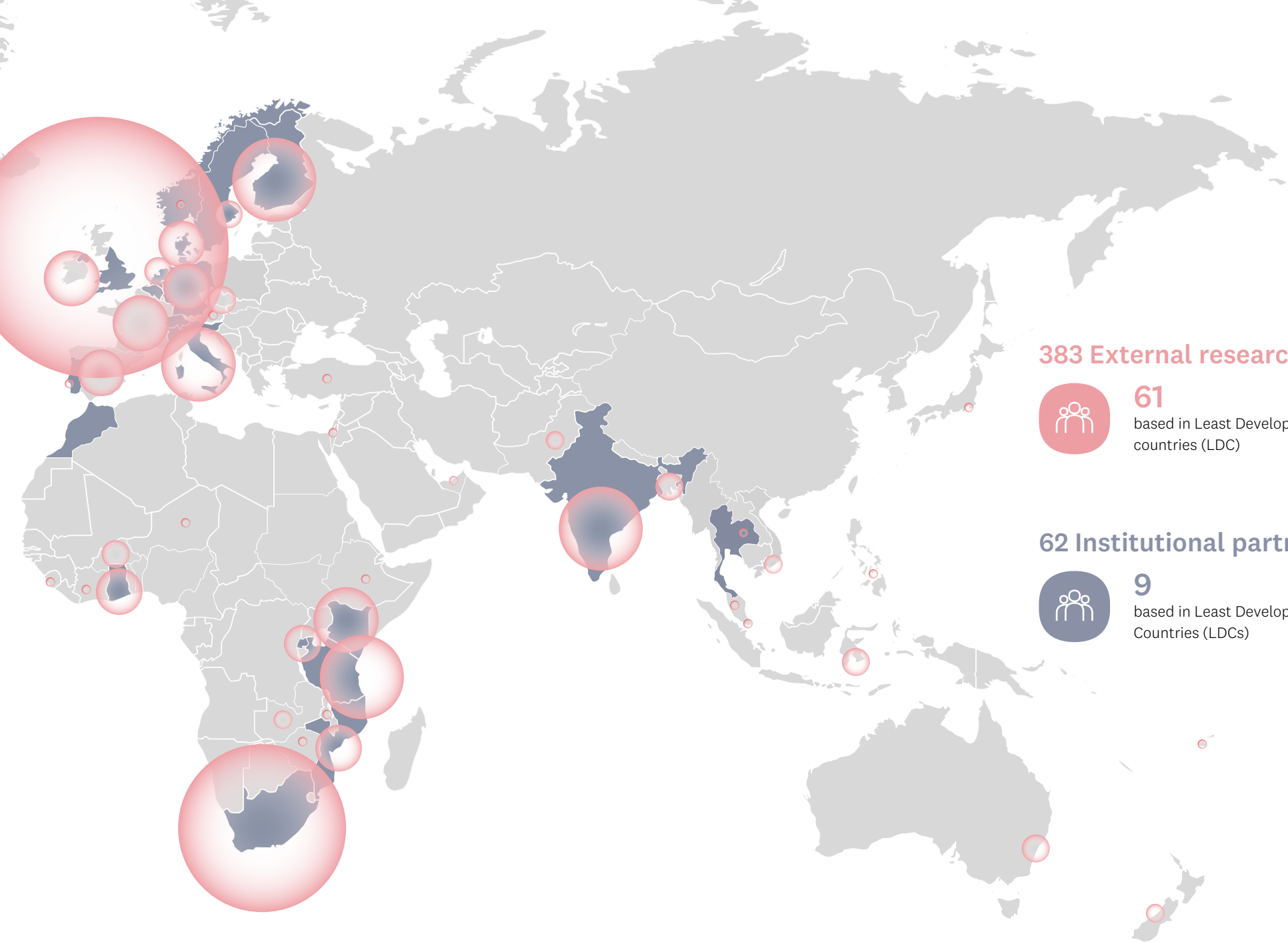
Financials (in US\$)



The WIDER Network

The WIDER Network is known to bring together local, national, and global research and policy communities allowing for highly diverse and novel ideas to flourish and enable a rich exchange of analysis and experience across continents.

External researchers
Institutional partners



383 External researchers



61
based in Least Developed countries (LDC)

62 Institutional partners



9
based in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Ongoing engagement with the WIDER Alumni network – career development, collaborations, and connections

WIDER Alumni connects former UNU-WIDER PhD Fellows, Visiting Scholars, research collaborators, and personnel who share the unique experience of learning and working together as the people behind the Institute's research and operations.



Today, our alumni are located all around the globe—providing a great networking opportunity. Former researchers have obtained positions at esteemed academic and research institutions; others go on to become development professionals involved in policy processes. Similarly, many former operations personnel go on to work for various UN agencies, government offices, academic institutions, and NGOs.

While we have always engaged with our alumni, in 2022 we formalized this to launch the official WIDER Alumni network. Through a dedicated LinkedIn group, WIDER Alumni can stay connected with UNU-WIDER and each other, fostering connections and opportunities, including alumni-focused events to meet and learn from each other.

Reflections from our alumni



Richard Osei Bofah
Chief Analyst/Deputy Director
National Development Planning
Commission of Ghana

Since completing UNU-WIDER's PhD fellowship programme in 2016, I've continued to engage with UNU-WIDER's activities. These days, as well as working with the National Development Planning Commission of Ghana, I am also the National Coordinator for the SDGs and have represented Ghana in diverse technical workshops and conferences outside the country. Being a part of the WIDER Alumni has been a valuable part of my career development and I look forward to continuing to develop opportunities through the alumni connections.

Winston Dookeran
Secretary-General
EUCLID



My time at UNU-WIDER as a Visiting Scholar in 2013 was truly pathbreaking—my mentor Prof Anthony Shorrocks’s work on global inequality was most influential, as I have used it in policy, research, and teaching. I subsequently worked at ECLAC and later I became Governor of the Central Bank, Minister of Finance and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago. After that I was appointed Professor of Practice at The University of the West Indies. My period at WIDER strengthened my analytical reach and assisted me in my efforts to close the gap between theory and practice in development.



Wasseem Mina
Associate Professor
United Arab Emirates University

I was a Visiting Scholar at UNU-WIDER in summer 2010. From an academic perspective, visiting UNU-WIDER was an enriching experience and supported my promotion to a higher rank professionally. I had the opportunity to interact in person with Prof Augustin Fosu, and other admired experts, including fellow visiting scholar, Prof Paul Alagidede, who, after our interactions at UNU-WIDER, invited me to serve on the editorial board of the *African Review of Economics and Finance*. I am proud to be a part of the WIDER Alumni and continue to engage with UNU-WIDER as my career continues.



Mayra Da Silva
Research Officer
Nordic Development Fund

I supported UNU-WIDER operations from 2016–2021 to assist the Office of the Director and support the Inclusive Growth in Mozambique (IGM) programme. Working at WIDER gave me first-hand experience of work in development cooperation. Especially through my experience with the IGM programme, where I engaged in partnerships with other UN agencies and international institutes and experienced the power of the UNU-WIDER network. Today I work at the intersection of climate and development using many of the skills I developed at UNU-WIDER. Being part of the WIDER Alumni brings me the opportunity to connect with like-minded professionals who are doing great things around the world.



Rose Fontep
The World Bank and Northwestern University

I am so grateful for my experience with UNU-WIDER. Above equipping me with strong technical skills at the WIDER Summer School in 2019, the Institute also boosted my professional profile through features on UNU-WIDER's social media, and by supporting me in writing a blog about my experience. This has been a turning point in my career, and I am now and I'm now receiving many more professional opportunities thanks to UNU-WIDER.

I have also continued to engage with the people I met during my training with UNU-WIDER, including collaborating on an exciting project with fellow former participant Khadijat Busola Amolegbe. Further, invitations to participate in conferences organized, or co-organized by UNU-WIDER, are providing more fantastic opportunities to build my network and profile.

Khadijat Busola Amolegbe
Senior Lecturer
University of Ilorin

The people that I met during the WIDER Summer School in 2019 have been instrumental in my career since. I am collaborating with fellow WIDER Summer School graduate Rose Fontep on a project with The Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), an AERC project with Pouirketa Rita Nikiema, and co-authored a book chapter with Ebenezer Lemven Wirba. These collaborations would not have happened without UNU-WIDER; I'm excited to see what else can be born from the WIDER Alumni connections we build.



John Karangwa
Senior Research and
Policy Analysis Officer
Rwanda Revenue
Authority

Since being a part of the WIDER Winter School in 2022, and becoming part of the WIDER Alumni, I've had the opportunity to engage with researchers from different African countries. This networking opportunity I hope will foster continued mutual learning and more research collaborations in the future.

Vision

The United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) provides economic analysis and policy advice with the aim of promoting sustainable and equitable development for all.

Mission

To undertake research and policy analysis on the most pressing concerns affecting the living conditions of the world's poorest people.

To provide a forum for knowledge sharing, discussion and debate between researchers and development professionals on how to achieve equitable, gender-balanced, and environmentally sustainable policies.

To offer capacity development and training for researchers and decision-makers in economics and social development.

Our work

UNU-WIDER provides economic analysis and policy advice with the aim of promoting sustainable and equitable development for all.

We are based in Helsinki, Finland, but operate globally through partnerships and a network of experts, and within the United Nations system. The Institute's aim is to produce knowledge that responds to the needs of people affected by poverty, inequality, and vulnerability, to support better policymaking and implementation at the local, national, regional, and international levels. As a unique blend of think tank, research institute, and UN agency, we are able to create impact across diverse networks and partners.

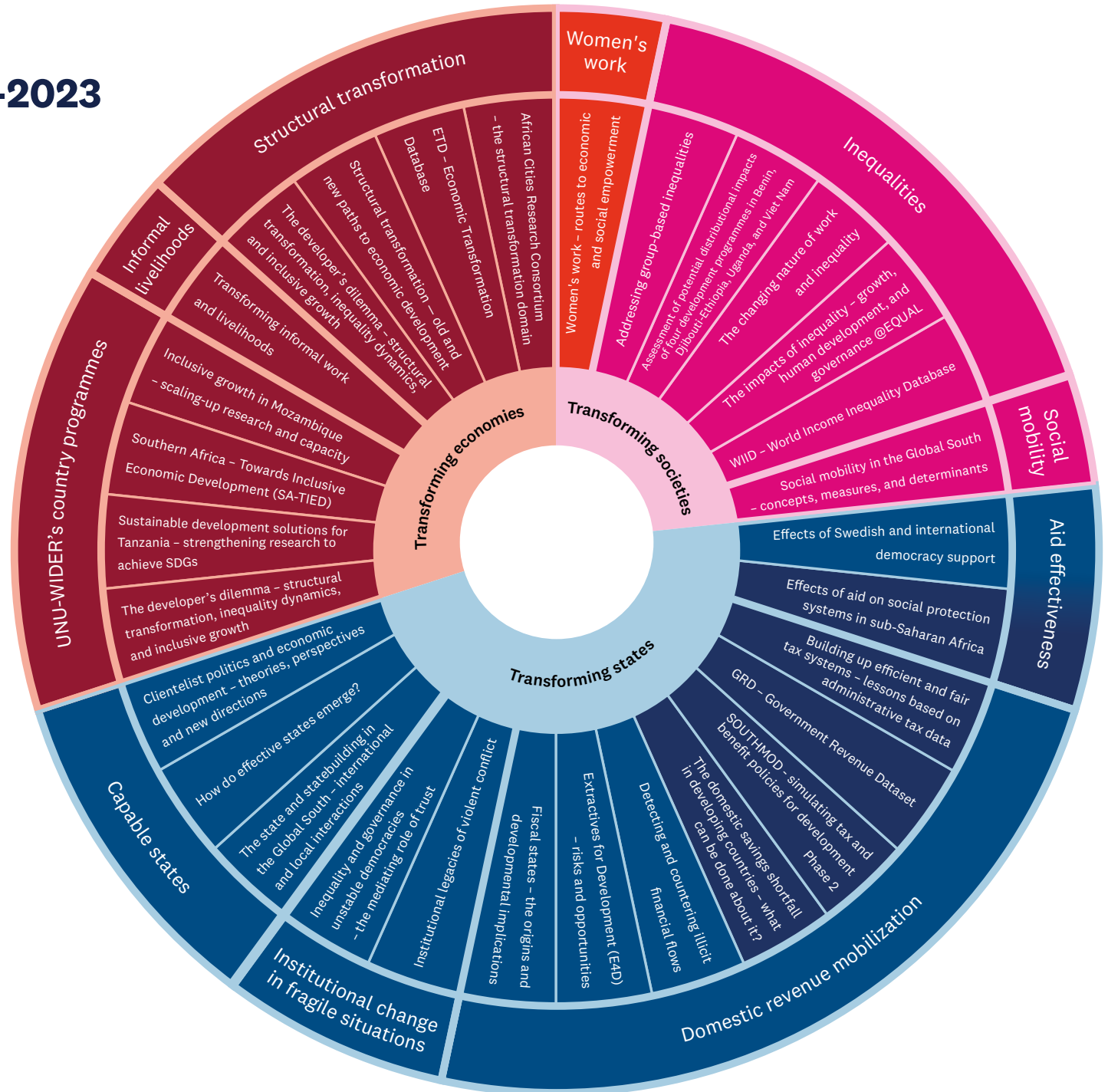
Our 2019–23 work programme concentrates on a wider concept of development, aimed at overcoming the three challenges of transforming economies,

transforming states, and transforming societies. Through our projects, we aim to contribute to positive change around five key SDGs that, we believe, when achieved can unlock the development potential of countries around the world. We do so by working together with in-country research and policy teams in the Global South and by creating 'public good' research, data, and models, that shape the developmental debate.

Our events serve as a forum for open dialogue, bringing together researchers, national decision-makers, and their international partners to discuss key research and policy insights. Whether in Helsinki or away, or even online, UNU-WIDER events reach across the world to include early career and established academics alike, encouraging knowledge exchange between different generations, disciplines, and regions.

Work programme 2019–2023

Our work programme maps the three challenges against five key SDGs (5, 8, 10, 16, 17). When these goals are achieved, we believe they can unlock the development potential of countries around the world.



Closing words from the Deputy Director



'In 2023, during the final year of our five-year work programme, we are focused on disseminating and discussing our gained research evidence on rebuilding economies, states, and societies with our stakeholders. At the same time we are using the new thinking to define UNU-WIDER's work for the coming years, which will focus on the three mega-challenges of our times around reducing persistent inequalities, building sustainable peace, and enabling just energy transitions. I am excited to collaborate with our current and future partners to work on these development challenges and fill critical knowledge gaps.'

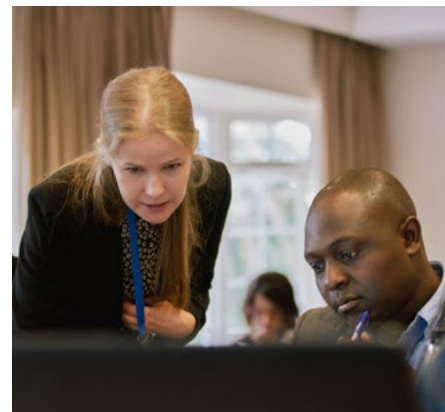
Patricia Justino
Deputy Director, UNU-WIDER


Thank you for being part of the WIDER journey

Thank you! From everyone in our Helsinki office, as well as those working in Maputo, Mozambique, and Pretoria, South Africa.

With much gratitude, we acknowledge the support from the governments of Finland, Norway, Sweden, South Africa, and the European Union for our activities in 2022.







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