



CENTRE for BASIC RESEARCH

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY
**CENTRE FOR BASIC
RESEARCH**

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The year 2024 has been a transformative period for the Centre for Basic Research (CBR). As a Ugandan navigates a never-evolving socio-political and economic landscape, CBR has remained a beacon of knowledge, driving research, engagement, and capacity building. Our commitment to producing impactful research and fostering informed debate has shaped our activities throughout the year. We have spearheaded key research projects, including:

- Countering Backlash: Reclaiming Gender Justice
- Karamoja Violence and Conflict Analysis
- IBSM Retreat: Advancing Localization Strategies
- Navigating Uganda's Political Future: Tectonic Shifts, Trends, and Contestations in the 2026 Elections and Beyond

We have also expanded our training programs, equipping the next generation of researchers with essential analytical and methodological skills. Looking ahead, we are dedicated to broadening our research initiatives, deepening stakeholder engagement, and strengthening our digital presence to reach wider audiences.

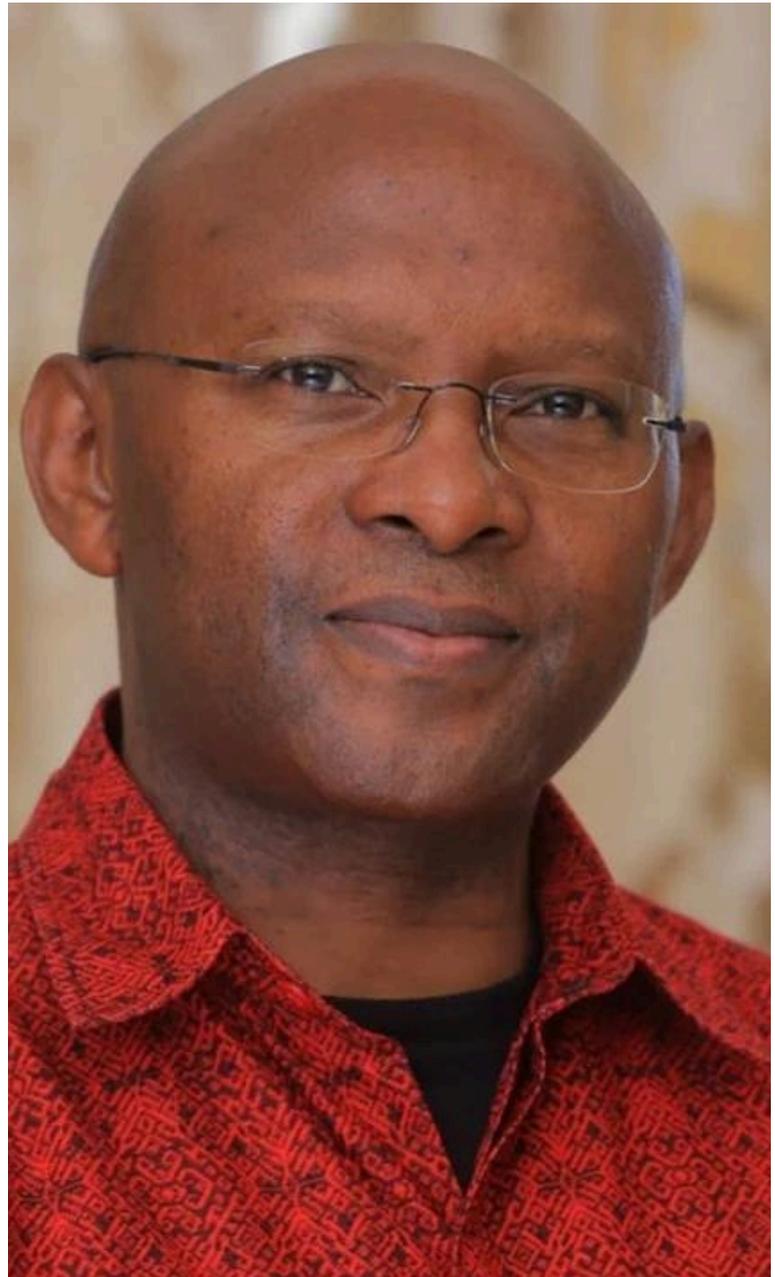
This report provides a snapshot of our journey in 2024—highlighting achievements, challenges, and future directions.

A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At the Centre for Basic Research, we believe in the power of knowledge to shape societies and influence policy. The 2024 Annual Report encapsulates our continued efforts to advance research, inform governance, and strengthen research capacities in Uganda and beyond.

Over the past year, we have expanded our thematic research areas, tackling pressing socio-economic, political, and governance issues. We have convened expert dialogues, trained emerging researchers, and built strategic partnerships that enhance our influence in the research ecosystem.

As we step into the future, our commitment to rigorous research, digital transformation, and meaningful collaborations remains unwavering. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our researchers, partners, funders, and stakeholders who continue to support our vision. Together, we will continue to make impactful contributions to knowledge and society.



RICHARD SSEWAKIRYANGA

Executive Director,
Centre for Basic Research

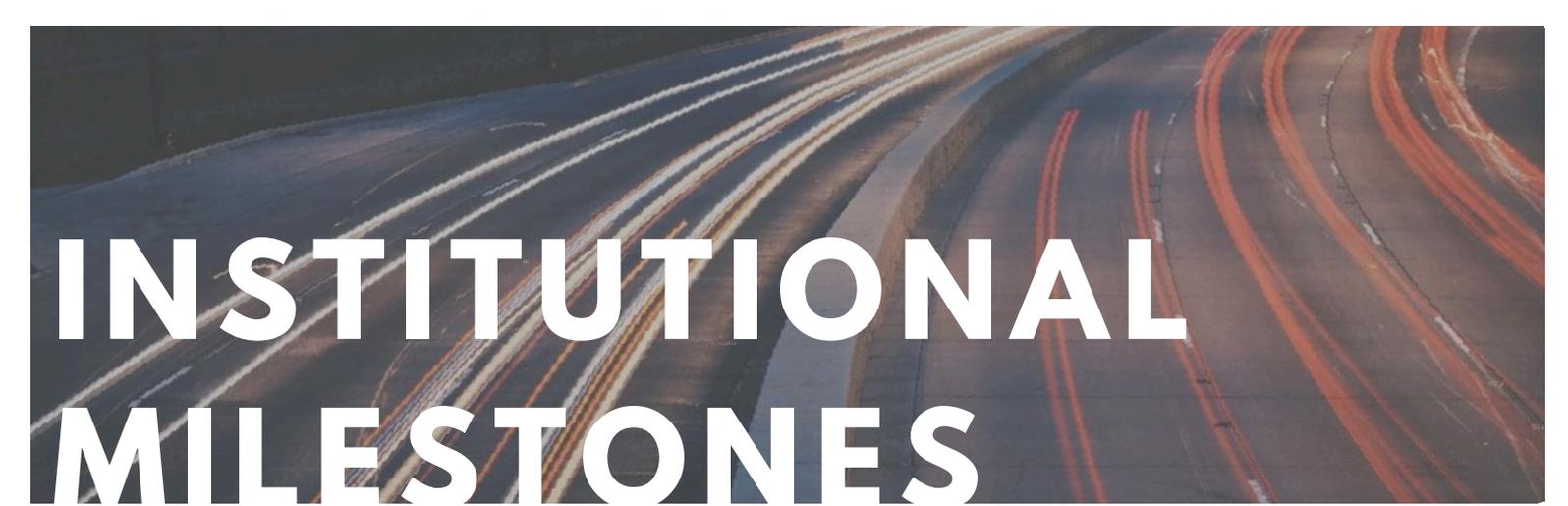
Vision & Mission

VISION

To be a leading Centre of excellence in generating and disseminating knowledge for sustainable development.

MISSION

To conduct high-quality basic and applied research on social, economic, and political issues relevant to Uganda and Africa, influencing policy, raising awareness, and improving the quality of life.



INSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES

Election of a New Executive Director

A defining moment for CBR in 2024 was the appointment of a new Executive Director. Following a rigorous selection process, Richard Ssewakiryanga was elected, succeeding Dr. Frank Emmanuel Muhereza. His leadership marks a new chapter in strengthening CBR's research and policy engagement.

Revitalization of the Research Policy Council (RPC)

CBR restructured its Research Policy Council (RPC), bringing together a distinguished team of scholars and experts, including Josephine Ahikire, Prof. Barya John Jean, Prof. Mulindwa Rutanga, Dr. Aramanzan Madanda, and Richard Ssewakiryanga. The RPC approved the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) Project, which will culminate in the production of an elections book, engaging scholars and policymakers in discussions on Uganda's 2026 elections.

IBSM Taskforce Retreat

In collaboration with CARE International, CBR hosted a high-level, three-day retreat focused on advancing the localization agenda. Moderated by Richard Ssewakiryanga, the retreat provided a structured approach to refining CARE International's localization strategy, ensuring alignment with global best practices

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Institutional Resilience and Recovery from COVID-19

Funded by the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), this project examined post-pandemic recovery in rural Uganda and South Africa. Under the guidance of Dr. Abel Nzabona, findings were disseminated at a high-level meeting at CBR offices.

Countering Backlash: Reclaiming Gender Justice

Led by Prof. Josephine Ahikire, this five-year project, funded by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), focused on promoting gender equality and addressing systemic injustices faced by women in Uganda.

Karamoja Violence and Conflict Analysis

Funded by Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI), this multi-year project, which commenced in 2020, was concluded in 2024 under the leadership of Dr. Frank Emmanuel Muhereza.

Navigating Uganda's Political Future

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) project is an initiative granted to the Centre for Basic Research (CBR), aimed at producing a comprehensive elections book as its final output. Officially titled "Navigating Uganda's Political Future: Tectonic Shifts, Trends, and Contestations in the 2026 Elections and Beyond," the project is designed to foster critical discussions, conduct research, and engage the public in the lead-up to the 2026 elections.



Seminar Series – 2024 Highlights

In 2024, the project hosted three key seminars, bringing together experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to explore crucial electoral themes:

- Launch Seminar (October 31, 2024) – Held at CBR offices, this inaugural seminar introduced the project to the public and outlined its objectives. Key speakers included Richard Ssewakiryanga, Prof. Moses Khisa, and Dr. Sabastiano Rwengabo. Electoral Commission Engagement
- (November 28, 2024) – This seminar featured members of the Uganda Electoral Commission, who shared insights into preparations for the 2026 general elections. Notably, Prof. Kayunga Ssimba Sallie (Electoral Commission Commissioner) addressed the commission’s commitment to ensuring a free and fair electoral process. Advisory Committee Meeting – This final engagement brought together the project’s
- advisory committee to discuss strategic insights and future plans. Participants included Richard Ssewakiryanga, Dr. Sarah Bireete, Dr. Sabastiano Rwengabo, and Andrew Karamagi.

As the project progresses, CBR remains committed to fostering informed electoral discussions, conducting rigorous research, and producing a publication that will contribute to Uganda’s evolving political landscape.



CBR Delivers Keynote on the Pact for the Future at 2024 #LeaveNoOneBehind Event

As part of the 2024 #LeaveNoOneBehind campaign, the Open Space Centre hosted a thought-provoking event aimed at unpacking global commitments to inclusive and sustainable development. The Centre for Basic Research (CBR) was invited to contribute to the discussions, with Executive Director Mr. Richard Ssewakiryanga delivering the keynote address.

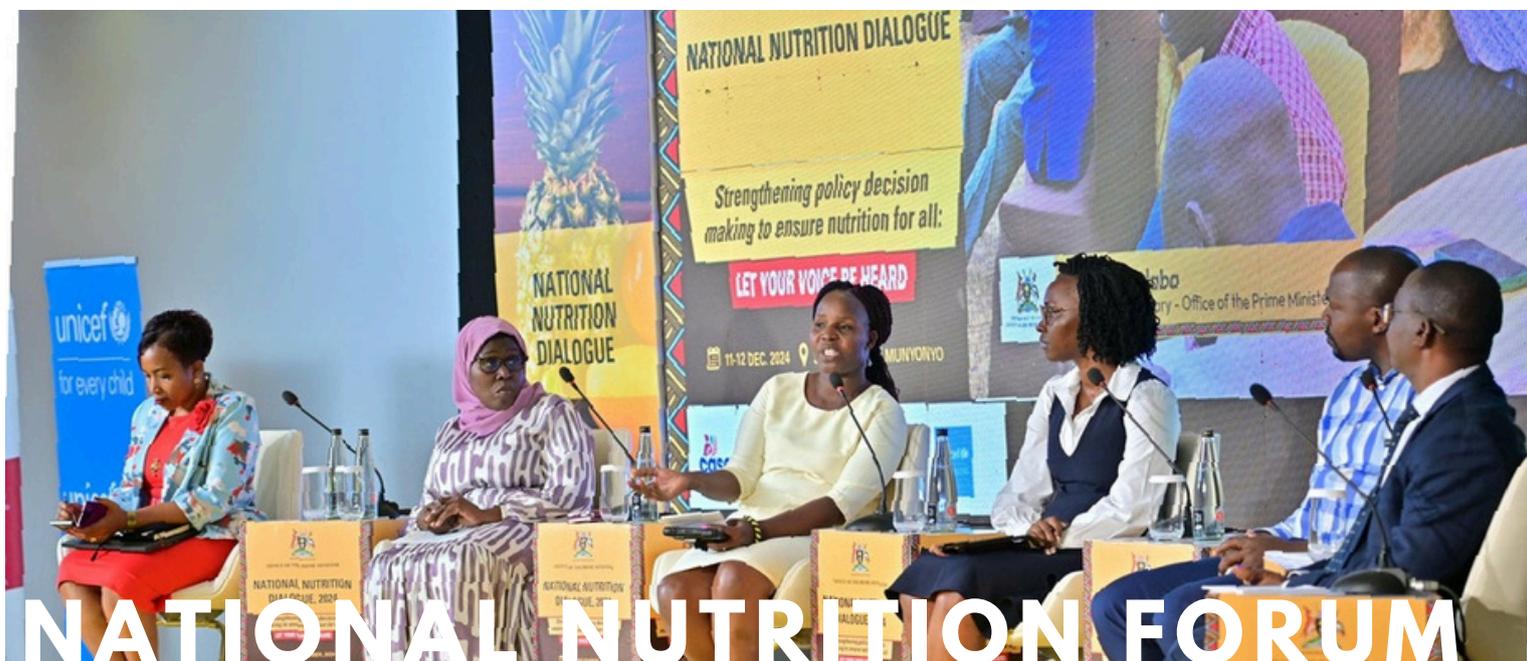
In his keynote, Mr. Ssewakiryanga explored the Pact for the Future as a bold and visionary framework designed to accelerate global progress, promote unity, and drive innovation. He noted that while the Pact lays a strong foundation for addressing today's most urgent challenges, it also calls on all of us to make it more inclusive, comprehensive, and grounded in real-world needs.

Framing his remarks within the #LeaveNoOneBehind campaign, he emphasized the importance of bringing marginalized voices—especially youth and grassroots civil society—into the center of global development conversations. “As young people, civil society organizations, and stakeholders,” he asked, “do we truly understand the Pact for the Future and its implications?”



In 2024, the Centre for Basic Research actively participated in the Elections Integrity Summit, hosted by AHEAD Africa and co-funded by the European Union and the National Endowment for Democracy.

The summit convened a wide range of stakeholders, including the Electoral Commission, civil society actors, development partners, and academic institutions from several countries globally. This high-level gathering served as a platform to advance critical discussions on the promotion of democracy, transparency, and neutrality in electoral processes across the African continent. Participants underscored the urgent need to strengthen electoral institutions, uphold the rule of law, and rebuild public trust in democratic systems. The Centre for Basic Research contributed to the discourse by sharing insights on electoral governance and policy research, reaffirming its commitment to promoting accountable and inclusive democratic practices in Uganda and beyond.



In 2024, the Centre for Basic Research (CBR) was honored to take part in the National Nutrition Forum, a high-level dialogue chaired by the Office of the Prime Minister. The Forum served as a vital platform for stakeholders from across sectors—including government ministries, development partners, academia, and civil society—to review Uganda’s progress and challenges in addressing malnutrition in all its forms.

CBR’s participation underscored the Centre’s commitment to contributing research-based evidence to inform policies and programs that impact public health and social development. The theme of the Forum emphasized the importance of evaluating nutritional status, both as a diagnostic tool and as a preventative measure.

As highlighted during the Forum, nutritional assessment is essential in two key contexts:

- To identify existing nutritional imbalances, which may arise from underlying health conditions, socioeconomic circumstances, or poor dietary intake.

- To predict the risk of developing nutrition-related pathological conditions, such as stunting, wasting, obesity, or micronutrient deficiencies.

These evaluations provide a foundation for designing targeted interventions and improving the implementation of the country's multi-sectoral nutrition action plans. Discussions also focused on strengthening community-level nutrition surveillance, increasing funding for nutrition programs, and integrating nutritional assessments more effectively in health and education services.

CBR contributed by sharing insights from recent social research on food security, poverty, and livelihoods—highlighting the structural drivers of malnutrition and the importance of embedding nutrition-sensitive approaches in broader development strategies.

The Centre remains committed to collaborating with national and international partners to build a stronger evidence base for nutrition policy, improve data systems, and support capacity-building initiatives that can help achieve Uganda's Vision 2040 and the Sustainable Development Goals.



MULTISTAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON STRENGTHENING AFRICA'S CIVIL SOCIETY ROLE IN GLOBAL TAX GOVERNANCE: COMBATting ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS AND ENHANCING NATURAL RESOURCE TRANSPARENCY

The Centre for Basic Research (CBR) participated in the Multistakeholder Dialogue on Strengthening Africa's Civil Society Role in Global Tax Governance, held in Port-Louis, Mauritius, and convened by the African Union's Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU ECOSOCC).

CBR was proudly represented by its Executive Director, who joined other leading voices from civil society, government, and international institutions to deliberate on pressing issues affecting Africa's economic governance.

The dialogue focused on key areas including combatting Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs), enhancing transparency in natural resource management, and strengthening the role of civil society in shaping global tax frameworks. These discussions are timely, given the need for Africa to mobilize domestic resources, reduce capital flight, and ensure equitable development through transparent and accountable governance systems

CBR reaffirmed its commitment to contributing evidence-based research and policy advocacy that promotes economic justice, strengthens democratic governance, and ensures African perspectives are effectively represented in global financial reform processes.

CITIZENS FORUM 2024 – KIGALI, RWANDA

The Centre for Basic Research proudly participated in the Citizens Forum 2024, convened in Kigali, Rwanda, under the auspices of the African Union’s ECOSOCC. This dynamic forum brought civil society actors, policymakers, and youth leaders to reflect on Agenda 2063 and the future of youth leadership in Africa.

During the event, the Executive Director of the Centre, Mr. Richard Ssewakiryanga, delivered an inspiring address to young participants, emphasizing the transformative potential of youth-led development. He drew attention to Rwanda’s example, highlighting how a majority of President Paul Kagame’s staff are young people, demonstrating that meaningful youth inclusion in governance is not just aspirational, but achievable. His remarks sparked critical reflection on the question: Is it realistic for youth to take ownership of their development and leadership? The forum echoed a resounding yes—affirming that with the right support, young Africans can and must be the architects of their continent’s future.



AFRICANS RISING ACTIVISM AWARD

The Centre for Basic Research was honored to participate in the 2024 All-African Movement Assembly held in Accra, Ghana. This vibrant gathering, convened by Africans Rising, brought together over 400 activists from across the continent to reflect on urgent issues shaping Africa's future—including climate justice, reparations, and Pan-African solidarity. The assembly served as a powerful space for movement building, collaboration, and envisioning a united Africa rooted in justice and equality.

During the event, the Centre's Executive Director, Richard Ssewakiryanga, had the honor of presenting the Activist of the Year Award to Mwiza, recognizing her outstanding contribution to social justice. The awards ceremony celebrated and appreciated the relentless efforts of activists across the continent who continue to champion human rights, equity, and dignity for all



#TONDEKAMABEGA #LEAVENOONEBEHINDCAMPAIGN-PRE- HLPF CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE

As part of the #TondekaMabega and #LeaveNoOneBehind campaign, Richard Ssewakiryanga, Executive Director of the Centre for Basic Research, moderated a pivotal Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Dialogue ahead of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

In his remarks, he traced the evolution of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), highlighting how they emerged from the foundation laid by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). He offered deep insight into the vital role of the HLPF in advancing the 2030 Agenda, emphasizing the need for inclusive and accountable governance. Ssewakiryanga underscored the importance of effective collaboration between Civil Society Organizations and governments to ensure no one is left behind in the journey towards sustainable development. His moderation provided a strategic platform for dialogue, reflection, and renewed commitment to achieving the SDGs.



NATIONAL GENDER FORUM 2024 - REVIEW OF SDG 5

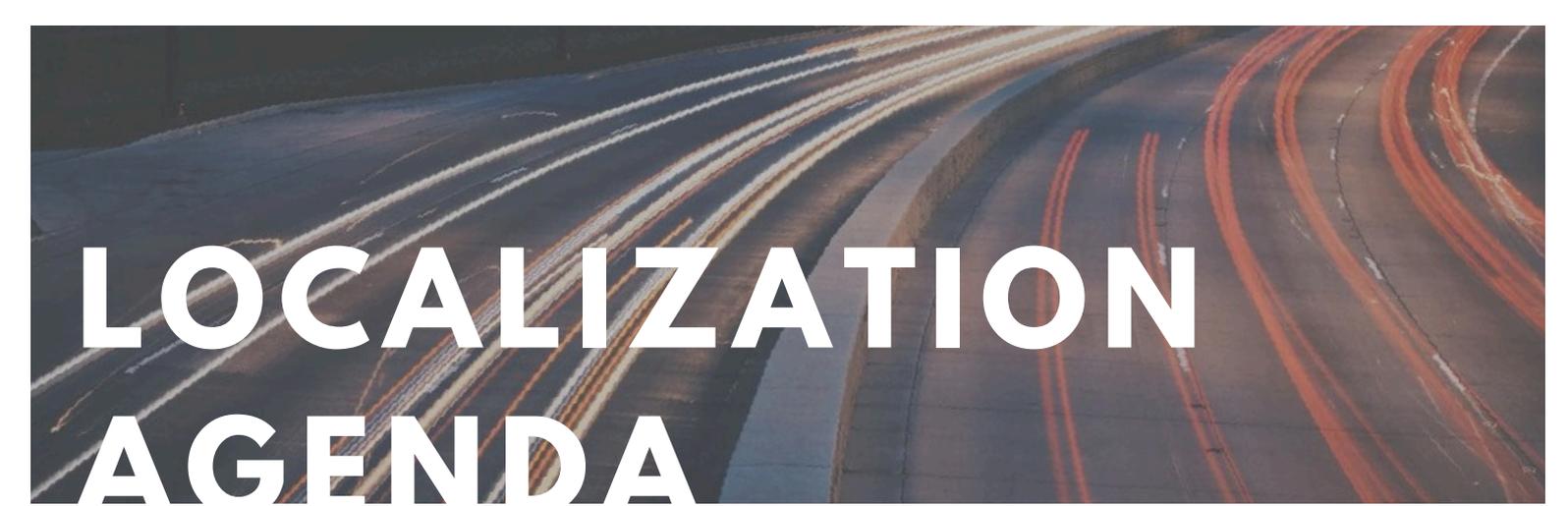
At the 2024 National Gender Forum hosted by FIDA Uganda, Richard Ssewakiryanga, Executive Director of CBR, led a powerful session reviewing the progress and challenges surrounding Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality.

In his presentation, he delivered a sobering reminder that no country globally has yet achieved full gender parity. He emphasized that the SDGs are deeply interconnected and that advancing gender equality requires identifying and leveraging the linkages across goals. Ssewakiryanga challenged human rights actors to embrace holistic approaches to advocacy and policy, highlighting that the struggle for gender equality is inseparable from broader development efforts. Citing Uganda's current data, he noted that the demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods among women aged 15 to 49 stands at 65.5%—a statistic that underscores both progress and the urgent need for continued investment in reproductive health and rights.



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LOCALIZATION AGENDA

The Centre for Basic Research (CBR) recently published a groundbreaking paper titled "Repositioning Uganda's CSOs in the Grand Bargain Process, Charter for Change, and Localization Agenda: Towards a Local Research Agenda." This paper critically examines the shifting dynamics of humanitarian and development financing, and their implications for Uganda's civil society organizations (CSOs). Uganda boasts a vibrant civil society landscape, with over 4,000 operational CSOs contributing to service delivery, policy advocacy, and economic development. However, the sector continues to face major challenges, particularly in financing, which remains predominantly foreign, conditional, and inflexible.

The paper explores how global frameworks like the Grand Bargain, Charter for Change, and the broader Localization Agenda aim to address these issues by advocating for more effective, locally-led responses. It highlights the importance of Ugandan CSOs engaging with these initiatives to reposition themselves, access new opportunities, and strengthen their operational and strategic capacities.

As part of this initiative, CBR is spearheading a local research agenda and organizing sense-making seminars to deepen collective understanding and encourage critical reflection on how localization can transform Uganda's civil society space. This work forms part of CBR's commitment to research-driven thought leadership and supporting sustainable, contextually relevant development.



APRM HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

APRM HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON MINERAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE BY DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GIZ)

The Centre for Basic Research (CBR), represented by its Executive Director, Mr. Richard Ssewakiryanga, took part in the Inaugural High-Level Dialogue on Comparative Experiences in Mineral Resource Governance in Africa. The event was organized by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in partnership and several international collaborators.

The dialogue was convened under the theme “Harnessing Africa's Mineral Wealth for Economic Growth, Social Equity, and Environmental Responsibility.” It brought together high-level participants including heads of state, policy makers, researchers, civil society actors, and development partners to share innovative approaches and comparative experiences in governing mineral resources across the continent. Discussions at the forum covered a wide range of critical issues such as legal and policy frameworks, transparency and accountability mechanisms, and aligning corporate social responsibility with national development plans. Other key focus areas included strategies for value addition, local beneficiation, and industrial growth, all aimed at ensuring Africa’s mineral wealth contributes to inclusive and sustainable development.



CARE INTERNATIONAL IBSM RETREAT

CARE INTERNATIONAL RETREAT

The Centre for Basic Research (CBR) was honored to facilitate the 2024 CARE (IBSM) Retreat which was held in Entebbe, bringing together CARE Uganda's leadership to chart a renewed strategic direction. The retreat focused on refining approaches that support CARE Uganda's shift towards locally-led development, emphasizing the importance of empowering local actors and communities in program design and delivery. During the retreat, CBR represented by the Executive Director facilitated this event in designing a critical paper on Partnership in CARE, exploring how partnerships can be strengthened to align with the principles of equity, mutual respect, and long-term sustainability. Additionally, CBR engaged participants in dialogue around CARE's position on social movements, reflecting on how the organization can collaborate with grassroots movements while preserving their autonomy and strengthening collective action.



INNOVATION OF CHANGE

Centre for Basic Research (CBR) was honored to participate as a keynote speaker in a high-level webinar organized by the Innovation for Change (I4C) Africa Hub, under the theme: “Dialogues to Strengthen Democracy and Citizen Participation.”

The session brought together a diverse group of actors from across the continent—including youth leaders, women’s rights activists, journalists, human rights defenders, regional connectors, and NGOs – to reflect on the role of civil society organizations (CSOs) and social movements in defending civic space and promoting democratic governance in Africa.

CBR’s Executive Director, Mr. Richard Ssewakiryanga, delivered the keynote presentation, focusing on the critical role of CSOs in navigating shrinking civic spaces, countering authoritarian tendencies, and harnessing innovation for greater civic engagement. The discussion also spotlighted the intersection of policy, grassroots mobilization, and new models for civic participation amid changing regional and global dynamics.

Key outcomes from the session included: ·Strengthened synergies and relationships among CSOs across the continent. ·

Shared lessons and reflections on challenges and innovations related to civic participation.

A deeper understanding of the opportunities and threats emerging within Africa’s civic space



TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

The Applied Research Skills and Report Writing Training by the

The Centre for Basic Research (CBR) is designed to equip young and emerging researchers with essential skills in conducting and presenting research. In 2024, CBR successfully conducted two training sessions:

- First session: June 1 – July 29, 2024 (17 participants)
- Second session: August 18 – October 5, 2024 (8 participants)

Recognizing the need for accessibility, CBR introduced online learning options, allowing participants from distant locations to engage in the training without geographical barriers. This hybrid approach has significantly broadened the reach of quality research education.

A Commitment to Inclusivity In 2024, CBR reaffirmed its dedication to knowledge-sharing by offering free training slots to students facing financial challenges. This initiative ensured that passionate and deserving individuals could access the program, fostering equal learning opportunities and nurturing the next generation of researchers. By continuously adapting and expanding its training model, CBR remains committed to shaping skilled researchers who can contribute meaningfully to academic and policy discourse.



1-2-1 EMERGING COACHING

As part of the ongoing capacity strengthening in December 2024, the Centre for Basic Research (CBR), represented by its Executive Director Mr. Richard Ssewakiryanga, provided tailored coaching support to Resource Alliance as part of the 1-2-1 Emerging Coaching initiative. Over the course of six months, Resource Alliance engaged in monthly 1.5-hour coaching sessions. The coaching focused on strengthening the organization's alignment with the EMERGE goals, while also addressing broader areas of institutional development and organizational effectiveness.

Mr. Ssewakiryanga guided the team through critical reflections on strategy, leadership, and locally-led development approaches. While two staff members from Resource Alliance were designated as core participants, other key staff also joined sessions where relevant, fostering a whole-of-organization approach to learning and growth.



BUILDING STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

With a rich legacy in advancing research and knowledge generation, the Centre for Basic Research (CBR) understands that meaningful change is driven by collaboration. We actively seek partnerships with academic institutions, research organizations, civil society, government agencies, the private sector, and development partners to enhance research excellence and shape policy discourse.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our partners for their unwavering support. Your collaboration enables us to fulfill our mission—providing a platform for critical inquiry, informing governance and policy discussions, and strengthening the research ecosystem in Uganda and beyond.

Together, we are advancing knowledge, driving impactful change, and shaping a more informed future.

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FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCE

	NOTE	ACTUAL 2023 UGX	ACTUAL 2022 UGX
ASSETS			
Fixed Assets			
Property and equipment	1	2,262,015,187	2,313,306,558
Current assets			
Cash and Cash equivalents	20	2,163,557	298,125,776
Staff / Research Advances	21	1,434,275	3,657,642
		3,597,832	301,783,418
TOTAL ASSETS		2,265,613,019	2,615,089,975
REPRESENTED BY:			
Capital Fund	22	2,218,360,834	2,269,652,204
General Fund	23	(524,013,661)	51,820,164
		1,694,347,173	2,321,472,368
Liabilities			
Other payables	24	551,565,846	283,767,607
Audit fees payable		19,700,000	9,850,000
TOTAL FUND		2,265,613,019	2,615,089,975

About Centre for Basic Research

The Centre for Basic Research (CBR), established in 1987 as a member institute of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) in Dakar, Senegal, is an academic non-governmental organization dedicated to generating and disseminating knowledge through research on socially, economically, and politically relevant issues in Africa. CBR aims to influence policy, raise public awareness, and improve quality of life while nurturing researchers in Uganda, Africa, and beyond. Its mission is to conduct both basic and applied research on various social, economic, and political issues. Since its inception, CBR has advocated for Ugandan and African scholars to shape national agendas through locally generated knowledge, covering areas such as democracy, governance, constitutionalism, gender studies, decentralization, land tenure, social movements, labor studies, and cultural studies. CBR is also committed to building research capacity in East Africa, offering short courses that equip participants with research skills and foster independent thinkers. The organization's work is widely published as working papers, policy briefs, and books, and its library is one of Uganda's finest outside a university setting, holding the latest social science publications, government and grey literature, Uganda's largest newspaper clipping collection, and a wide range of journals. To date, CBR has published over 150 peer-reviewed books and working papers.

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