



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Inequality Diagnostics Report for Ghana Launched

ACCRA, 4 December 2020 – The African Centre of Excellence for Inequality Research (ACEIR), Ghana Node on Friday 27 November 2020 launched the Inequality Diagnostics for Ghana, the second in a series of inequality trend reports published by ACEIR. It was produced by a team of researchers at the University of Ghana, and provides empirical and policy-relevant data on inequalities in Ghana.

The Report was launched by Prof Felix Asante, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Office of Research, Innovation and Development (ORID) at the University of Ghana, along with Dr Christophe Cottet, Country Director of Agence Française de Développement (AfD) and Prof Robert Darko Osei, Coordinator of the ACEIR Ghana Node.

Prof Asante, much like other speakers at the event, praised the project team for their work in producing a practical and user-friendly report, with lots of recommendations: “The beauty of the Report is that it is not technical, such that the average person can read it, understand it and use it in his or her work,” he said.

He thanked the project partners, including the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) for the ACEIR initiative, the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER) for hosting ACEIR Ghana, and the AfD for the funding support.

Other speakers at the event included Prof Darko Osei; Prof Aryeetey, Secretary-General of ARUA; Dr Cottet and Prof Murray Leibbrandt, ACEIR Director, University of Cape Town (who joined the event virtually). Three project team members – Dr Richmond Atta-Ankomah, Dr Nkechi Owoo and Dr Monica Lambong-Quayefio – took turns to present interesting highlights of the Report, followed by discussions.

Report Highlights:

In his presentation, Dr Atta-Ankomah noted that while successive governments have managed to put Ghana on a relatively stable and high growth path and achieved significant reduction in poverty, various forms of inequalities continue to persist. It is important, therefore, to deepen inclusive-growth policies and strategies, with a policy focus on the following key areas proposed in the Report:

- Enhancing general access to social amenities and services by investing more in economic and social infrastructure while ensuring that financial constraints for poor households are minimised as these negatively affect access to some of these services.
- Ensuring that any programme of enhanced investment in social and economic infrastructure addresses existing regional or locational disparities in the distribution of these services.
- Enhancing existing social protection programmes by expanding coverage, addressing targeting challenges, and embedding production-inclusion strategies into these programmes.
- Addressing gender constraints in labour markets that negatively affect labour market outcomes for women.

The event was held at the Cedi Conference Centre at the University of Ghana, with the participation of key stakeholders including academics, government representatives, development practitioners and the media.

The Report is available (free) at the ACEIR Ghana Office (located at the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research [ISSER], University of Ghana) and online at: <https://aceir.org.za/publications/>

###

Editors' Note:

ACEIR is a network of universities located in western, eastern and southern Africa working to improve the quality and accessibility of relevant data on inequalities in Africa. It was established in 2018 as an African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Centre of Excellence. The Diagnostics Report for Ghana was produced as part of the Research Facility on Inequality funded by both the AFD and the European Union.

For interview requests with the ACEIR Ghana project team or more information, contact **Ms. Vicentia Quartey** - Email: vicentia.kotia@gmail.com Tel: (+233) 244 766492