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It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I welcome you to the 2022-2023 annual report of the Institute of Statistical, Social, and Economic Research (ISSER). As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, I am pleased to share with you some of the significant highlights that have shaped our journey.

One of our key achievements during this period was the release of two impactful institutional publications — The State of the Ghanaian Economy Report (SGER) 2021 and the Ghana Social Development Outlook (GDSO) 2022. These publications not only provide a comprehensive analysis of our economic landscape but also contribute to the ongoing discourse on the economic and social development of our beloved nation.

ISSER actively engaged in shaping critical discussions on national economic policies. We organised a forum that delved into the topical issue of the debt exchange programme and the 2023 budget statement. These events provided a platform for thoughtful dialogue, fostering a deeper understanding of the economic landscape and its implications for Ghana's future.

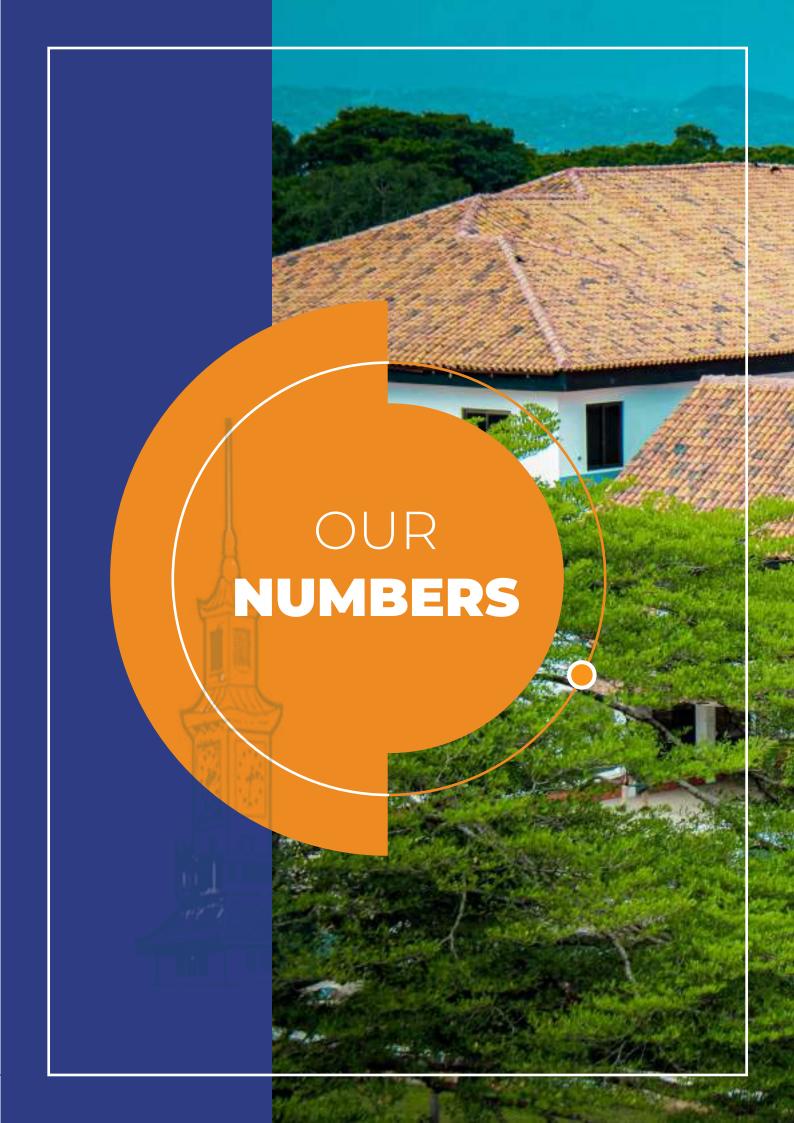
In our commitment to knowledge dissemination, we organised two development dialogues. The first focused on teenage pregnancy and school enrollment, bringing together students from selected senior high schools to discuss this pressing

issue. The second dialogue centered around Ghana's Public Debt Management, facilitating a constructive exchange of ideas among experts and policymakers.

We also proudly hosted international conferences, strengthening our global partnerships. Notable among these was the 2023 global gathering of the Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI), and a high-level conference with the European University Institute (EUI). The latter explored the theme *Climate Finance for Sustainable Energy Transitions in Africa*, providing a platform for crucial discussions on sustainable development.

As part of our commitment to advancing research in financial inclusion, ISSER launched the Inclusive Finance Development Series (IIFDS). This initiative is a testament to our dedication to position African research institutions at the forefront of advancing evidence for the development of inclusive finance, contributing to the economic empowerment of our communities.

In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our team, partners, and all stakeholders who have played a crucial role in making these accomplishments possible. As we move forward, ISSER remains committed to its mission of promoting knowledge for the socioeconomic development of Ghana and Africa.



ISSER Community











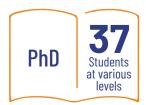






Training Programmes









- **15** Monitoring & Evaluation
- Research Methodology and Report Writing
- 40 Project Cycle Management

Policy Events







Research

The Institute continued its unwavering dedication to multidisciplinary research throughout the reporting period, with a portfolio comprising over 20 new and ongoing projects. These initiatives spanned diverse themes such as











In the following sections, we present project spotlights that showcase the breadth of our research focus and highlight our capacity for multidisciplinary exploration. These spotlights offer a glimpse into the depth and diversity of the research endeavours undertaken by ISSER over the period.

Retail Finance Distribution Research Initiative (ReFinD)

ReFinD is a sub-grants-awarding research initiative that aims to support interventions that will effectively expand the reach and efficiency of agent network operations through public policy and commercial solutions that can plausibly be scaled. It was launched in June 2022 with a first call for proposals, and is implemented by ISSER, with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Project website: refind-isser.ug.edu.gh

Principal Investigator: Prof. Peter Quartey Location: Ghana (with a focus on Africa and Asia)

Duration: November 2021 – November 2026 Project type: Sub-grants awarding research

initiative

Greening the Social and Economic Recovery in Ghana and Zambia project

This project sought to examine the possible green economic and social opportunities that can be integrated into the development policy architectures of Ghana and Zambia in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the project's Four Work Packages (WPs), the research team in Ghana undertook extensive consultation of existing literature and policy documents, interviewed varied stakeholders, and conducted scenarios development workshops to address the set research questions. The research process was equally enriched by the oversight direction of a constituted Steering Committee. The research team produced specific outputs for each WP as well as a synthesised report which was launched on 26 May 2023 at ISSER. The project was funded by the United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI).

Principal investigator: Dr. Simon Bawakyillenuo

(sbawakyillenuo@ug.edu.gh) Location: Ghana and Zambia Duration: 2020 – 2022



Data Repository and Advocacy for Policy (DARAP)

The Data Repository and Advocacy for Policy (DARAP) project focuses on promoting the access and effective use of data and knowledge products to influence policymaking processes and outcomes. It contributes to evidence-led policymaking through data management services and capacity building in the use and interpretation of research data, with a focus on contributing to the development of agri-food systems. It works in collaboration with civil society organisations and academics. DARAP is funded by the Open Society Economic Justice Programme and based at the Measurement, Learning, and Evaluation (MLE) Unit at the ISSER University of Ghana.

Project website: darap@ug.edu.gh Principal investigator: Dr. Fred Dzanku

Location: Ghana Duration: 2021- 2023 Project type: Pilot project

Curbing Illicit Financial Flows fromResource-RichDeveloping Countries: Improving Natural Resource Governance to Finance SDGs (IFFs Project)

The IFFs project is a six-year interdisciplinary research that explored how commodity-trade-related Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) from Ghana can be significantly reduced to finance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It was implemented by a team of researchers at the University of Ghana in collaboration with the Centre on Conflict, Development, and Peacebuilding (CCDP) of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies with project sites being Ghana, Laos, and Switzerland.

Principal investigator: Dr. Fred Dzanku Location: Ghana and Switzerland

Duration: 2017 - 2022

Challenging the Global Orthodoxies Which Undermine Universal Social Protection Project- WIEGO Social Protection Programme

The partnership between ISSER and WIEGO seeks to challenge the assumptions about taxes paid by informal workers and explore ways to overcome methodological challenges in measuring their fiscal relationships through the implementation of a representative survey of informal workers in Accra, Ghana.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Simon Bawakyillenuo

Location: Ghana Duration: 2021- 2022

Environment for Development (EfD) GHANA

EfD Ghana is a collaborative network of environmental economists from universities in Ghana and Ghanaians elsewhere around the world working to promote the sustainable management of Ghana's natural resources through policy-relevant research, policy advice, and capacity development. It conducts policy-relevant research on a wide range of topics, with emphasis on coastal and mineral resource management, extractive industries, energy resources management, climate change, and green growth. It was established in 2019 as one of the centers of the Sida-funded Environment for Development (EfD) Initiative, and is hosted by the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) at the University of Ghana (UG), and the School of Research and Graduate Studies (SRGS) at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA).

Principal Investigator: Prof. Peter Quartey (ISSER) &

Prof. Wisdom Akpalu (GIMPA

Location: Ghana
Duration: 2019 –

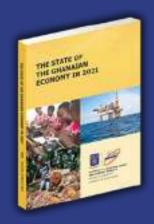




PUBLICATIONS

Besides the individual publications of researchers, the Institute issued two flagship publications, the State of the Ghanaian Economy Report (SGER) 2021 and the Ghana Social Development Outlook (GSDO) 2022 alongside policy briefs drawing on the various chapters of the GSDO 2022.

Researchers' individual publications can be accessed through the ISSER website at www.isser.ug.edu.gh









SEPTEMBER 2022

ISSER Director visits Bonn University, deepens collaboration networks

ISSER Director, Prof. Peter Quartey paid a working visit to the Centre for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn, Germany. The visit was aimed at deepening relations with ZEF -- a longstanding partner under ISSER's Ph.D. in Development Studies programme -- and other partners of ISSER based at the University of Bonn.

Prof Quartey and Dr. Ama Fenny, Senior Research Fellow, and Coordinator of the ISSER PhD in Development Studies Programme, held meetings with partners at ZEF and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The two Bonn-based institutions and ISSER jointly operate the Ghanaian-German Centre of Excellence for Development Studies (GGCDS), which is based at ISSER, University Ghana, and focuses on advancing the training in Development Studies of outstanding Ghanaian and African students.



ISSER launches SGER 2021, makes recommendations for IMF negotiations and 2023 budget

ISSER launched the State of the Ghanaian Economy Report (SGER) 2021, the 31st edition of its flagship annual report on the economy of Ghana.

The report was launched by Mr. Edward Armah-Mensah, General Manager of Business, Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) Ghana, who represented Dr. John Kofi Mensah, Managing Director of ADB. He was assisted by Prof. Peter Quartey, ISSER Director; Prof. Gordon Awandare, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, University of Ghana (UG); Prof. Daniel Frimpong Ofori, Provost, College

of Humanities, UG; and Dr. Isaac Osei-Akoto, Head of Economics Division, ISSER and Coordinator of SGER 2021.

In a statement read on his behalf by Mr. Armah Mensah, the ADB Managing Director expressed appreciation to ISSER for organizing the SGER launch each year, noting "this is an excellent opportunity for all stakeholders from different parts of the Ghanaian society to cross-pollinate ideas on our economy."

Prof. Quartey gave a three-part presentation that covered the state of Ghana's economy in 2021, a review of quarter three 2022 economic performance, and Ghana's IMF journey, with each part concluding with key policy messages and recommendations.









NOVEMBER 2022

DAAD annual collaboration workshop 2022 held, students, alumni urged to support programme continuity

The 2022 edition of the annual collaboration workshop of the Ghanaian-German Centre for Development Studies (DAAD) gathered DAAD programme collaborators, students and alumni, and some University of Ghana (UG) officials, including Prof. Eric. Osei-Assibey, Dean of International Programmes.

Earlier in a welcome address, Prof. Peter Quartey announced that ISSER has been selected to host the DAAD In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme. Under the programme, German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)-funded scholarships will be granted to individuals who plan to pursue a PhD in Development Studies at ISSER.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Osei-Assibey extended thanks and congratulations to the DAAD for being at the forefront of the funding and promotion of international higher education scholarship, describing it as "the world's largest funding organisation for the international exchange of students and researchers."

Speaking on the theme of higher education internationalisation strategy, he underlined the important contribution of DAAD support, and that of other European Union countries, in contributing to building capacity in African universities and allowing for productive academic connections between African and European universities.

DECEMBER 2022

Workshop held to share findings of Modern Energy Cooking Services in Ghana project

The project team of the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) Ghana project arranged a workshop to disseminate the findings of household and market baseline surveys which were carried out under the first phase (MECS Phase I, 2020-2021) of the project. The workshop also served to mark the

start of MECS Phase II, which builds on the success of the initial phase. MECS Phase I was funded by the UKAid in partnership with the Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme (ESMAP) as part of the global MECS that is led by Loughborough University (UK).

In his welcome remarks, Prof. Peter Quartey acknowledged the World Bank Group, funding partner of MECS Phase II saying, "ISSER cherishes every partnership that makes it possible for us to access funds to do research and engage with stakeholders."













ISSER hosted the media for a forum to discuss and analyse the 2023 budget. Prof. Peter Quartey presented a detailed analysis of the 2023 budget statement. His presentation covered topics including key global challenges, fiscal development and targets, monetary and financial sector developments, sectorial review (spanning

industrial, services, and agricultural sectors), and international trade payments.

There was also a session on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Debt Restructuring, which, among other things, discussed the topical issue of the debt exchange programme.

FEBRUARY 2023

Young people in focus: ISSER development dialogue discusses teenage pregnancy and school enrolment

Teenage pregnancy prevention is fundamental to building a healthy, highly educated, happier, and more equitable society. This requires deliberate and consistent investment in reproductive health education, responsible parenting, family life education, and the involvement of everyone.

This was the key message from the development dialogue on the topic of teenage pregnancy and school enrollment organised by the ISSER. The event was led by the Social Division, one of the three divisions of the Institute that focuses on understanding people and society, identifying social problems, and promoting solutions to enhance societal welfare.

Dr. Martha Awo, the Head of the Social Division, in sharing the motivation for the choice of topic, said adolescent pregnancies continue to be a serious public health concern in developing countries including Ghana. The dialogue was thus aimed at understanding the state of teenage pregnancy in Ghana and outlining recommendations to strengthen the capacity of policymakers and other stakeholder groups in tackling it.

ISSER Director Prof. Peter Quartey agreed that the topic is pertinent and timely, saying it "...has a direct impact on young people, the family, and society as a whole."

The four-member panel of speakers included Dr. Abraham Frimpong Baidoo, Programme Officer, Safe Motherhood, Family Health Division, Ghana Health Service (speaking on the sub-theme, The state of teenage pregnancy in Ghana), Dr. Madeez Adamu-Issah, Education Specialist, UNICEF Ghana (Teenage pregnancy and school dropout, are we doing enough?), Rev. Prof. Adobea Yaa Owusu, ISSER (Teenage pregnancy: prevention through parent-child discourse, and family-life education in the home), and Dr. Leticia Adelaide Appiah, Executive Director, National Population Council (The implications of teenage pregnancy in education and national development). The discussion was moderated by Mamavi Owusu-Aboagye, a journalist and co-host of Joy FM's Super Morning Show.







APRIL 2023

ISSER hosts 2023 PRCI Global Gathering and CACCI-Ghana Outreach event









The spacious conference facility of ISSER was the venue for the 2023 global gathering of the Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI) which took place from 25 to 27 April 2023. Over 100 representatives from PRCI centres and partner institutes took part in plenary and breakout sessions, and panel discussions, sharing their achievements and best practices and engaging in exchanges that were valuable in creating positive outcomes for the participants and member institutes.

A key part of the activities was the launch on 25 April 2023 of the Comprehensive Africa Climate Change Initiative (CACCI) in Ghana, a project based at ISSER. During this event, the collaborative work CACCI-Ghana has been doing with Policy LINK, another USAID-funded activity, was highlighted alongside lessons learned from other pilot countries in Africa.

Participants included representatives from PRCI centres in Africa and South Asia, along with PRCI partners, the African Network of Agricultural Research Institutes (ANAPRI), Cornell University, and Michigan State University.

ISSER Inclusive Finance Development Series launched with call to deepen academiaindustry collaboration

The ISSER Inclusive Finance Development Series (IIFDS), an initiative under the Institute's agenda to position African research institutions at the forefront of advancing evidence for the development of inclusive finance, was launched by Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, a former Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana and General Secretary of African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) on May 4, 2023.

The IIFDS is a platform that facilitates evidence-led engagement on inclusive finance between academia, policymakers, commercial providers, and consumers. It complements the Retail Finance Distribution (ReFinD), ISSER's sub-grant awarding research initiative.

ReFinD Executive Director, Prof. Peter Quartey, said, "We at ISSER are committed to facilitating an independent, African-led, and evidence-driven platform dedicated to generating and facilitating the use of evidence to advance and safeguard inclusive finance in developing economies, especially in Africa."

The launch was marked with a public engagement on the 2021 Ghana Findex Data. It featured high-level speakers including Mrs. Elsie Addo Awadzi, Second Deputy Governor of Bank of Ghana (BoG), as keynote speaker, and Dr. Leora Klapper, a Lead Economist in the Development Research Group at the World Bank, a founder of the Global Findex database, and Director of the 2022 World Development Report, as presenter of the 2021 Findex Data, alongside a representative five-member panel comprising key leaders from academia, the policy and regulatory sectors, and industry.



Keynote speaker, Mrs. Elsie Addo Awadzi, Second Deputy Governor of Bank of Ghana (BoG) delivers her statement





ISSER, collaborators launch report, engage stakeholders on pathways for greening Ghana's COVID-19 recovery









The scene at the dissemination workshop and project report launch was one of lively interactions as participants discussed the findings from the Ghana component of the Greening the Social and Economic Recovery in Ghana and Zambia project. The 2-year study, carried out by research teams at ISSER, the University College of London (UCL), UK, and the Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR), is a response to calls in the wake of Covid-19 to re-think the direction of economic and social development.

As part of the project, the research team analysed stakeholder views on what a green recovery from

Covid-19 could look like, co-developed future economy-wide scenarios with these stakeholders, analysed the energy system implications using quantitative models and developed recommendations for policymakers.

The Ghana report, named Greening the Recovery in Ghana report, was launched by ISSER Director, Prof. Peter Quartey, alongside project team members present. Besides the in-person participants, the launch was witnessed by online attendants, notably co-researchers and partners who contributed to the implementation of the project.

JUNE 2023

Ghana Social Development Outlook 2022 launched

ISSER launched the 2022 edition of the Ghana Social Development Outlook (GDSO), a biennial report analysing the country's progress across key social development indicators. Produced by the Social Division of ISSER, the report seeks to promote evidence-led decision-making for enhanced development and social well-being.

The report was unveiled by Prof. Daniel Frimpong Ofori, the Provost of the College of Humanities who represented Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana. He was assisted by Prof. Peter Quartey; Prof. George Owusu the Dean of Social Sciences; Dr. Martha Awo, the Head of the Social Division and GDSO 2022 Coordinator; and Dr. Isaac Osei-Akoto, the Head of the Economics Division.







ISSER partners Development Initiatives in engaging Ghanaian stakeholders on global public investment

ISSER partnered with Development Initiatives (DI) in organizing a roundtable meeting to discuss global public investment, a new innovative approach for mobilizing resources to finance development in the global south. The event brought together a representative group of stakeholders from

academia, civil society, government organizations, and the media in Ghana to exchange knowledge and ideas to deepen understanding of how the financing model would potentially work in the Ghanaian context.

The collaborative event makes ISSER one of six national partners across six countries in Africa, two each in West Africa, East Africa and Southern Africa, identified to collaborate with DI in their effort to foster awareness and understanding of GPI.









International conference at ISSER, University of Ghana fuels collaborative efforts for Africa's green energy transition

ISSER and the European University Institute (EUI) hosted a joint high-level international conference centered around the theme Climate Finance for Sustainable Energy Transitions in Africa. The conference aimed to foster collaboration and discussions on critical actions required to drive Africa's transition toward a greener and more prosperous future.

Renowned speakers at the conference included Prof. Felix Asante, Pro Vice-Chancellor at the University of Ghana (representing Vice Chancellor Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo); Prof. Peter Quartey, Director of ISSER; Honourable Dr. Amin Adams, Minister of State at the Ministry of Finance of Ghana; Prof. Renaud Dehousse, President of EUI; and Mr. Pieter Smidt Van Gelder, Chargé d'Affairs, EU Delegation to Ghana. These esteemed experts shared insights and perspectives on climate finance, sustainable energy solutions, and the critical actions required to facilitate a successful energy transition in Africa.

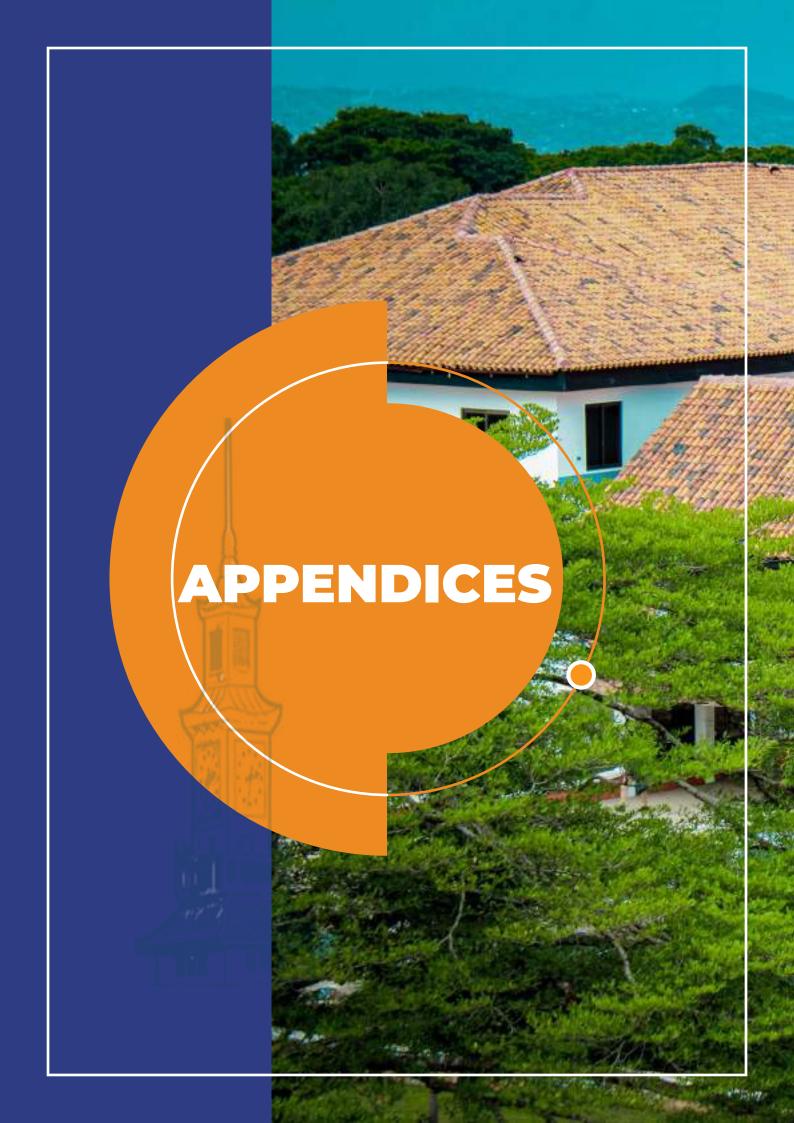
Participants engaged in fruitful dialogue, forging partnerships and collaborations aimed at driving sustainable energy transitions in Africa.











STAFF LIST 2022/2023

FACULTY



Prof. Peter QuarteyDirector



Prof. Felix AsanteProfessor



Prof. George Owusu
Professor



Rev. Prof. Adobea Yaa Owusu
Professor



Prof. Augustin A. K. Fosu
Professor



Prof. Robert Darko Osei
Associate Professor



Prof. Nana Akua A. Anyidoho
Associate Professor



Prof. Charles AckahAssociate Professor



Dr. Simon BawakyillenuoSenior Research Fellow



Dr. Isaac Osei-Akoto Senior Research Fellow



Dr. Fred Dzanku Senior Research F<u>ellow</u>



Dr. Martha A. Awo Senior Research Fellow



Dr. Ama Pokuaa FennySenior Research Fellow



Dr. Cynthia Addoquaye TagoeSenior Research Fellow



Dr. Aba Crentsil Senior Research Fellow



Dr. Kofi Takyi Asante Senior Research Fellow



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Dr. Nana Amma Asante-Poku Research Fellow



Dr. Michael KodomResearch Fellow



Dr. Gertrude Dzifa TorvikeyResearch Fellow



Dr. David Sarfo AmeyawAdjunct Scholar







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Miss. Hilda Kolog Messenger/Cleaner

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Mr. Joseph Anati Porter

Mr. James Nkansah Porter

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Ilicit Financial Flows (IFFs) Project

Miss Anita Anokyewaa Sarpong Research Assistant/Ghana Informal Sector

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Mr. Enoch Vukey Research Assistant/Ghana Socioeconomic Panel

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Distribution Networks Project

Miss Rukayatu Adam Research Assistant/Teacher Capacity Building

for Play-based Early Learning in Ghana and Sierra Leone

Miss. Stephanie K. Danquah Modern Energy Cooking Service (MECS) Phase 2

The World Bank Group

Mr. Innocent Agbelie Modern Energy Cooking Service (MECS) Phase 2

The World Bank Group

Mr. Louis Caleb Kutame Research Assistant/Teacher Capacity Building

for Play-based Early Learning in Ghana and Sierra Leone

Ms. Eva Baaba Dadzie Research Assistant/Teacher Capacity Building

for Play-based Early Learning in Ghana and Sierra Leone

NATIONAL SERVICE PERSONNEL-2022/2023 ACADEMIC YEAR

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Bright Asaah Atibire Social Division
Efia Mirekua Farcor Social Division
Priscilla Owusu Darko Social Division

Isaac Mbabil KusohinamEconomics DivisionGodwin ApemjobeyEconomics DivisionDesmond Owusu AppiahEconomics Division

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Sandra Ama Osei Communication Office/ReFind Project

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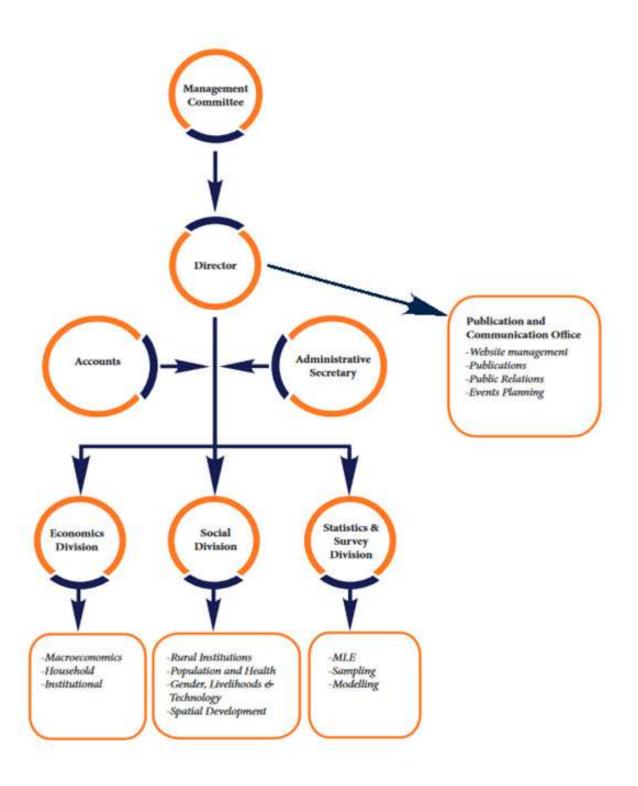
David Doh-Nani Prempeh Conference Facility

Princess Safowaa General Office/Front Desk

Dela-Kekeli Tsegah Admin. Sec/Front Desk - New Facility

Kelvin Abrokwa-Mante ICT Office

ORGANOGRAM



OUR COLLABORATORS





































































ABOUT ISSER

The Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER) is a semi-autonomous institute within the College of Humanities at the University of Ghana. It is among the leading social science research institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa, carrying out research, training, and outreach and dissemination activities that are geared toward promoting the socio-economic development of Ghana and Africa. ISSER boasts over 25 faculty members with PhDs across social science disciplines, as well as visiting scholars, research staff with research degrees, administrative staff, and a suite of local and international collaborators.

ISSER is made up of three divisions: The Economics Division, the Social Division and the Statistics and Survey Division.

Vision

To be recognised globally for promoting knowledge for development through authoritative policy research, training and advocacy.

Senior Management Team

Prof. Peter Quartey, Director

Dr. Isaac Osei-Akoto, Head, Economics Division

Dr. Martha Awo, Head, Social Division

Dr. Fred Dzanku, Head, Statistics and Survey Division

Training Programme Coordinators

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