



2023 Annual Report

OVERVIEW

At the Centre for African Research, Engagement and Partnerships (CARE-P) we believe global challenges require global collaboration. Our objective is to lead and further enhance the global research capacity, academic excellence, social reputation, and humanity of the University of Newcastle through engaging in sustainable and high impact research, teaching and professional consultancy with world class universities, educational providers, governments, and non-government partners to jointly tackle global challenges, enhance development and humanity in our community, across Africa and the world.

Collaboration

CARE-P and its partners have built on the achievements of the past years to sustained excellence in Research, Engagement and Partnerships in 2023, promote sustainable development goals and enhance the University of Newcastle's reputation nationally and globally.

In 2023 CARE-P has:



Research

- established a multi-institutional ARC funded Africa Political and Economic Impact research at the University of Newcastle.
- joined the international working group steering committee to plan and deliver NHMRC funded Cancer screening project in Eswatini.
- published four C1 journal articles in Q1 journals.



Engagement

- obtained over \$245K in funding from DFAT Australia Awards Fellowship (AAF), over \$15K funding from Kenya government, financial and in-kind support for UON GLOBAL and the College of Human and Social Futures towards capacity building program for senior public servants from Kenya and Botswana.
- held community dinner and UON/CARE-P events for the Kenya and Botswana delegates.
- updating the Centre's website



Partnerships

- CARE-P's Director Dr Janet Dzator represented the University of Newcastle at the 2023 Australia Universities Network annual general meeting.
- held UNESCO inspired equity in higher education webinar on Africa Day.
- supported Mental Health and Well-Being Foundation to organise a conference and build a neonatal care unit in Ghana.
- Hosted and supported a Uganda palliative care practitioner in fund raising event.

RESEARCH

Africa Political and Economic Impact project

The research projects won in 2021 and 2022 have progressed well and new hallmarks in engagement and partnership have been added in 2023. CARE-P's collaboration in solving



community challenges and enhancing University of Newcastle's reputation is demonstrated by successfully establishing an Australia Research Council funded (\$435K with \$49K apportioned to UON) multi-institutional project on Africa Political and Economic Impact at the University of Newcastle in June 2023. The project will run between 2022 and 2026. This marks a historic milestone as the first project in

Australia focusing of the contributions of African diaspora to the Australia economy. CARE-P's Director Dr Janet Dzator is a chief investigator on the project and has started to work with the project team. A workshop was held in July at Curtin University (host institution) in Perth to plan the project activities. The first webinar will take place on 29 November 2023.

CARE-P, CIFAL and Eswatini Australian National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) project

The lead chief investigator (Laurate Professor Rob Sanson-Fisher) of the CARE-P/CIFAL Australian National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) project (about \$1.2M) on Cervical cancer screening intervention in Eswatini (2021 to 2025/26) has resigned from the university early in 2023. The University appointed Post doctoral fellow Dr Phinda Khumalo as the leader but awaiting NHMRC's confirmation. The change in leadership has delayed the progress of the project but a working committee was established to re-assess key tasks and keep the project moving. CARE-P (Dr Janet Dzator) is co-investigator on the project and part of the working committee to ensure equal participation by both African and Australia teams.

Publications

Members of CARE-P have published four C1 journal articles in Q1 journals over the 2023 period. CARE-P affiliated publications are added to the Centre's website to improve visibility.

ENGAGEMENTS

Short course for Capacity Building for effective governance in Public Service Management and Sustainable Development

Short courses are excellent in forming, deepening, or strengthening bond. Senior public servants from Kenya and Botswana have engaged in a two-week intensive experiential learning program in Australia. CARE-P's Dr Patricia Johnson (project leader) and Dr Janet Dzator (Deputy project leader) were awarded DFAT AAF funding of over \$245K to deliver a short course in Building for effective governance in Public Service Management and Sustainable Development to senior public servants of Kenya and Botswana Public Commissions. Emeritus Professor Jim Jose, Professor Frank Agbola and Mr David Wise were members of the CARE-P team that developed and administered the project.

The two-week program (4-17 November 2023) was spread across Sydney, Canberra, and Newcastle. The DFAT AAF fellows attended workshops on public service delivery with Senior Public Service Commissioners including the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) commissioners, went on site visits to observe active delivery of public service at national and state hubs including CentreLink, had official parliamentary tours of NSW Parliament (See Figure 1) and the National Parliament in Canberra, had specialised workshops on customer behaviour and the improvement of customer behaviour with data insights; strategic planning and resource management in service delivery; productivity issues; leadership succession and change management; negotiation, mediation and conflict resolution; industry and energy transitioning policies, technologies and challenges; and how to evaluate programs for sustainability.



Figure 1. Delegates in NSW Parliament

The delegates received a joint reception by the Kenya and Botswana High Commissions in Canberra as well as warm welcome by senior members of the College of Human and Social Future, interacted with members of the Kenya and Botswana diaspora in a community event.

CARE-P organised an event to showcase the University's ongoing support for Africa related work, support for staff and students involved in Africa or migrant related work and for the delegates to interact with key stakeholders involved in Africa work at the university and across our communities Hunter, Maitland, Sydney, and Wollongong. The delegates were fared well during official dinner at Local Connections and were presented with fellowship certificates by Pro Vice Chancellor Sunny Yang.



CARE-P Event: Dr Janet Dzator giving an overview of CARE-P to the UON/DFAT delegates



CARE-P event: Ambassador Anthony Muchiri (Chairperson, Kenyan PSC) thanking UON for the Capacity building program and for establishing CARE-P.



Some UON/CARE-P staff, students and some Kenya and Botswana representatives

Figure 2. CARE-P event for the delegates



UON/DFAT African Delegates at Community Dinner organised by Hunter Botswana and Kenya community members.



At the Botswana High Commission in Canberra, joint hosting of delegates by the Botswana and Kenya High Commissions

Figure 3a. Botswana and Kenya High Commissions hosting delegates in Canberra



Professor Sunny Yang DVC Engagement presenting certificate to Dr Joyce Nyabuti (Commissioner, Kenyan PSC)

Figure 3ba. Professor Sunny Yang presenting Certificates to delegates

Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN)

CARE-P is the link between the University and the AAUN and Dr Janet Dzator has been representing the UON on almost all AAUN meetings, most of them online.

In September the DVC GEP supported Dr Janet Dzator to make a face-to-face representation of the University at the 10th Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN) Annual general meeting (AGM) in Perth. Janet made two presentations on (i) University of Newcastle's initiatives in engaging academics, students, and communities, and (ii) on the concept and use of Science Diplomacy in exploring the impact of migrants globally.

The University of Newcastle's establishment and support for CARE-P, Staff and students with Africa research interests and the provision of Africa Excellence Scholarships were presented as the UON's initiatives among others.



Dr Janet Dzator making presentation at the Perth AAUN meeting



Dr Janet Dzator making presentation at the Perth AAUN meeting



Hon. Ayor Makur Chuot MLC (Member for North Metropolitan, Perth) and Dr Janet Dzator



Dr Janet Dzator with AAUN delegates at Perth



H.E. Joe Tapera Mhishi (Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary Australia & New Zealand of the Rep of Zimbabwe/Africa Head of Missions), Dr Janet Dzator and E/Prof John Hearn Perth AAUN (CO-Chair AAUN)



Africa Impact Research Team at the AANU Perth: Dr Janet Dzator, Prof Farida Fodzar, Ms Nothando Ngwenya (Dr Mohammad Suleiman at the background)

Figure 4. Dr Janet Dzator at AAUN annual General meeting Perth 2023.

Earlier in the year Dr Janet Dzator accepted invitation to contribute to the AAUN/ Curtin University training program on Emerging Leaders in Australia and Africa Diplomacy (ELAAD). Dr Dzator delivered a lecture on to the participants.

New AAUN members

The AAUN is expanding its membership. The Australia National University (ANU) and the University of Rwanda (UR) have recently joined the AAUN as members. Efforts are underway to welcome some universities from the Indo-Pacific region as strategic members.

AAUN Borad's Visit to Newcastle

The AAUN senior executives will be paying their annual courtesy visit to the University of Newcastle on 30 November to meet with the University' senior executives, support the CARE-P and Africa interested researchers. The visit is part of the AAUN's commitment to its member universities.

UON/CARE-P Africa Day Celebrations, 2023

CARE-P partnered with the university of Newcastle's UNESCO Chair Professor Penny Jane Burke to deliver an equity in higher education focused speech to CARE-P members and affiliates across Australia (Newcastle, Sydney, Gold Coast, Melbourne, Perth, Canberra including delegates from High commissions in Canberra) and Africa (South Africa, Uganda, Ghana, Kenya and Egypt). About 45 delegates attended the Webinar. The Africa Day 2023 celebration record is available from the link below.

<https://uonewcastle.zoom.us/rec/share/75P2yZSmpo5wGvIjiPMdk9Nfpas3NnAWQkr7zScSxE1RgjMOqqCO4PNIFTIFdB0c.8G4E7p3XePa0EySw> Passcode: 04NLX=k!

UON Rwanda initiatives

Dr Christian Ntizimira visited CARE-P, the Hunter Medical and Research Institute (HMRI) and the Mater Hospital (Newcastle) in September to discuss his amazing palliative care program in Rwanda and network with Australian specialists for improvement. Professor Kelly Brian of UON and HMRI hosted Dr Ntizimira and worked with CARE-P to promote this unique work as well as fund raised through sales of Dr Ntizimira's authored book on palliative care in Rwanda. Christian held a special chat with the Director Dr Janet Dzator about the history and work of CARE-P. The University of Rwanda has Memorandum of understanding with the University of Newcastle.

Christian and Janet's discussion is available through the link below.

https://uonewcastle.zoom.us/rec/share/Cu_MJzWfJp9hqspKgidkO4JB7TfC8Isu0LE3YEz5rFFRcpLTHjqQaytydu8bqxpO.BuPgrneewZW_V4ZF with Passcode: PGxA7.E?

Memorandum of Understanding

The University of Cape Coast in Ghana has renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Newcastle.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Graduation

Dr Jennifer Peprah graduated PhD in 2023 (See photos in Figure 5). Jennifer is a member of the Mental Health and Well Being Foundation (MHWBF) that has been working for over ten years to create awareness about mental health in Ghana. The MHWBF is an affiliate of UON and CARE-P.

Request for UON to Establish a Sustainable Mental Health Postgraduate Scholarship

The CARE-P executive board has supported the MHWBF in proposing to the UON **to establish an annual scholarship to fund a Mental Health postgraduate from Ghana to boost capacity in the field.** The MHWBF has helped funded five mental health related PhDs from Ghana at the University of Newcastle over the past ten years and Jennifer is one of them.



Dr Jennifer Peprah with UON Chancellor and DVC GEP



UON Chancellor Dr Janet Dzator, Dr Francis Acquah (President and Co-founder MHWBF), A/Prof Chris Kewley (Co-founder MHWBF) and Prof Kent Anderson (DVC GEP)

Figure 5: Capacity Building- Dr Jennifer Peprah's graduated

The mental health scholarship request was referred to CARE-P executive board. The board discussed and recommended that **the University should consider putting aside a small percentage of the fees of African students enrolled at the university towards the scholarship. The executive board's decision was passed on Professor Kent Anderson for consideration.** This approach is considered sustainable and is hoped to continually train postgraduate mental health related fields including mental health nurses that are critically in short supply in Ghana and developing countries.

Conferences

The MHWBF delegate also asked for support for their tenth anniversary conference celebration. The DVC GEP donated \$5000 in support for their tenth anniversary conference celebration. The conference took place in late September (29-30 September) and was opened by Australia' High Commissioner to Ghana and West Africa Her Excellency Ms Bernice Owen-Jones.

Other Partnered projects

CARE-P and the MHWBF have raised funds and worked together to construct a well-equipped Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Ketu in Ghana. The NICU had larger space and is equipped with vital resources, including a ventilator, three radiant warmers, five incubators, oxygen concentrators, twelve cots, cardiac monitors, phototherapy equipment, infusion pumps, and a medication trolley. The facility also includes dedicated areas such as a mother's wellness Centre for counselling, a Kangaroo mother care area for preterm infants, a spacious breastfeeding area for bonding, and essential facilities for the medical staff. The impact of this project is significant. It will allow for increased admission of newborns, reducing the risk of cross-infection, and enhancing ward safety through proper equipment placement and demarcation. Additionally, the mother's wellness Centre within the NICU will provide mental health and wellness support to anxious and depressed mothers, ensuring comprehensive care for both infants and parents. This project will immensely contribute to the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 3.2 to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5, and to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births by 2030. Her Excellency Ms Bernice Owen-Jones opened the neonatal Unit for Ketu district residents in Ghana. The facility bears a plaque that has the UON logo as acknowledgement and advertisement.



UON/CARE-P and MHWBF tenth anniversary call with UON Logo



Some Key Delegates at the UON/CARE-P MHWBF tenth conference in Ho Ghana.



The neonatal unit commissioning banner with UON Logo



H.E. Ms Bernice Owen-Jones Australia's Ambassador to Ghana inspecting the neonatal unit prior to opening.



A ward at the neonatal unit.

Figure 6: UON/CARE-P and MHWBF partner projects in Ghana.

CARE-P website update

As a living Centre, the CARE-P website is being updated. Some of the inaugural board members have either left the University or want to engage with the Centre in different capacity roles. Other have expressed interest to join and participate in the Centre's activities.

CONCLUSION

We thank the leaders of University of Newcastle, the UON/GLOBAL and all our partners, collaborators and members for their support, commitment, and contributions in 2023. We wish you all a refreshing and happy holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Dzator

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24 November 2023

APPENDIX

Publications affiliated with CARE-P

Book chapters

- Dzator J, Acheampong AO, Dzator M. (2022). Urbanisation and Sustainable Development: Econometric Evidence from Australia, In Community Empowerment, Sustainable Cities, and Transformative Economies. Editors: T, Chaiechi, J., Wood. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-5260-8_7
- Dzator, J., Acheampong, A., & Dzator, M. (2021). The impact of transport infrastructure development on carbon emissions in OECD countries. In P. Singh, P. Verma, D. Perrotti, & K. K. Srivastava (Eds.), *Environmental Sustainability and Economy* (pp. 3-17). Amsterdam, Netherlands: Elsevier. doi:[10.1016/B978-0-12-822188-4.00006-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-822188-4.00006-3)
- Acheampong, A., Dzator, J., & Savage, D. (2021). The role of economic institutions in electricity consumption, economic growth, and CO2 emissions linkages: evidence from sub-Saharan Africa. In P. Singh, P. Verma, D. Perrotti, & K. K. Srivastava (Eds.), *Environmental Sustainability and Economy* (pp. 61-83). Amsterdam, Netherlands: Elsevier. doi:[10.1016/B978-0-12-822188-4.00002-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-822188-4.00002-6)
- Michael, D., Acheampong, A., & Dzator, J. (2021). Does transport infrastructure development contribute to carbon emissions? Evidence from developing countries. In P. Singh, P. Verma, D. Perrotti, & K. K. Srivastava (Eds.), *Environmental Sustainability and Economy* (pp. 19-33). Amsterdam, Netherlands: Elsevier. doi:[10.1016/B978-0-12-822188-4.00012-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-822188-4.00012-9)
- Dzator, J., & Dzator, M. (2020). Natural Disasters: Macroeconomic Implications and Measurement Issues. In T. Chaiechi (Ed.), *Economic Effects of Natural Disasters Theoretical Foundations, Methods, and Tools* (pp. 317-333). London: Academic Press.
- Dzator, M., & Dzator, J. (2021). Economic Impact Assessment After a Natural Disaster Using DEMATEL Method. In T. Chaiechi (Ed.), *Economic Effects of Natural Disasters Theoretical Foundations, Methods, and Tools* (pp. 281-299). London, UK: Academic Press.
- Dzator, J., Acheampong, A. O., & Dzator, M. (2021). Climate Change and Natural Disasters: Macroeconomic Performance and Sustainable Development. In T. Chaiechi (Ed.), *Economic Effects of Natural Disasters Theoretical Foundations, Methods, and Tools* (pp. 301-316). London, UK: Academic Press.
- Acheampong, A. O., & Dzator, J. (2020). Managing Environmental Quality in Sub-Saharan Africa: Does Institutional Quality Matter? In C. M. Hussain (Ed.), *Handbook of Environmental Materials Management* (pp. 1-29). Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature. doi:[10.1007/978-3-319-58538-3_215-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-58538-3_215-1)
- Dzator, J., & Acheampong, A. (2020). The Impact of Energy Innovation on Carbon Emission Mitigation: An Empirical Evidence from OECD Countries. In C. M. Hussain (Ed.), *Handbook of Environmental Materials Management* (pp. 1-19). Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature. doi:[10.1007/978-3-319-58538-3_213-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-58538-3_213-1)

Peered reviewed journal articles.

2023

- Acheampong, A.O., Dzator, J., Opoku, E.E.O., Erdiaw-Kwasie, M. and Abunyewah, M. (2023). Sub-Saharan Africa's Tragedy: Resource curse, Democracy and Income Inequality, *Social Indicators Research* SOCI-D-22-00958R1 ABDC RANKED A

- Ahmed, F. Dzator, J and Acheampong OA. 2023. Do Remittances Reduce School Dropout in Bangladesh? The Role of Government's Administrative and Structural Support, *Journal of Policy Modelling*, [10.1016/j.jpolmod.2023.04.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpolmod.2023.04.002) <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jpolmod.2023.04.002> ABDC RANKED A
- Acheampong, A. O. and Dzator, J.,2023. Income inequality and economic growth in BRICS: Insights from non-parametric techniques", *Journal of Economic Inequality*, [10.1007/s10888-023-09567-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10888-023-09567-9) <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10888-023-09567-9> ABDC RANKED A
- Acheampong, A. O., Dzator, J., Dzator M and Appiah-Otoo I. 2023. Leveraging Digital Technology for Development: Does ICT Contribute to Poverty Reduction? *Telecommunications Policy*, Vol 47 (4),
- 2022
- Acheampong, A. O., Dzator, J., Dzator, M., & Salim, R. (2022). Unveiling the effect of transport infrastructure and technological innovation on economic growth, energy consumption and CO2 emissions. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 182. doi:10.1016/j.techfore.2022.121843
- Acheampong A.O., Janet Dzator, and Mary Amponsah (2022). Analyzing the role of economic globalization in achieving carbon neutrality in Australia. *International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology*, DOI: 10.1080/13504509.2022.2056771
- Osei-Opoku E. E., Acheampong, AO Dzator A, Kufuor N.K. (2022). Does environmental sustainability attract foreign investment? Evidence from developing countries, *Business Strategy and the Environment*, <https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.3104>
- Alex O Acheampong, Eric Evans Osei Opoku, Janet Dzator, Nana Kwabena Kufuor. (2022). Enhancing human development in developing regions: Do ICT and transport infrastructure matter? *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*,180(5), <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2022.121725>
- Acheampong, A.O., Opoku, E.E.O., Dzator, J. (2022). Does democracy really improve environmental quality? Empirical contribution to the environmental politics debate, *Energy Economics*, 105942-105942. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-5260-8_7
- Janet Dzator, Alex O Acheampong, Michael Dzator, Francesco Paolucci, Bruno Lule Yawe, Emmanuel Ekow Asmah, Francis Kwaw Andoh, Allen Kabagenyi, James Gillespie. (2022). Policy stringency, handwashing and COVID-19 cases: Evidence from global dataset, *Journal Health Policy and Technology*, DOI: 10.1016/j.hlpt.2021.100574
- Dzator, J., Acheampong, A. O., Dzator, M., Paolucci, F., Yawe, B. L., Asmah, E. E., . . . Gillespie, J. (2021). Policy Stringency, Handwashing and COVID-19 cases: Evidence from Global dataset. *Health Policy and Technology*, 100574. doi:[10.1016/j.hlpt.2021.100574](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hlpt.2021.100574) (Received AAUN PRDF in 2019).
- Acheampong, A. O., Boateng, E., Amponsah, M., & Dzator, J. (2021). Revisiting the economic growth–energy consumption nexus: Does globalization matter? *Energy Economics*, 102, 105472. doi:[10.1016/j.eneco.2021.105472](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2021.105472)
- Acheampong, A. O., Dzator, J., & Savage, D. A. (2021). Renewable energy, CO2 emissions and economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa: does institutional quality matter? *Journal of Policy Modelling*, 43(5), 1070-1093. doi:[10.1016/j.jpolmod.2021.03.011](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpolmod.2021.03.011)
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Dzator, M., & Dzator, J. (2020). The impact of Mathematics and Statistics Support at the Academic Learning Centre, Central Queensland University. *Teaching Mathematics and its Applications: An International Journal of the IMA*, 39(1), 13-28. doi:[10.1093/teamat/hry016](https://doi.org/10.1093/teamat/hry016)