

**African Economic Research Consortium to Host a Virtual Plenary Session on
“Poverty, growth, redistribution, and social inclusion in times of Covid-19 pandemic in
Africa”**

Economists, Researchers and Policymakers Examine the Dynamics of Poverty, Growth, Redistribution, and Social Inclusion in the Context COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa.

The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) will host its 56th Plenary Session on **“Poverty, growth, redistribution, and social inclusion in times of Covid-19 pandemic in Africa”** on **May 30, 2022**. The session will be held on a virtual platform where researchers, academics, policy makers, non-state actors and economists will discuss the mechanisms in which Covid-19 has affected the dynamics of poverty, growth, redistribution, and social inclusion in Africa. The official opening and keynote address will be by Prof. Leonard Wantchekon, Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University.

The plenary will seek to bring in sharp focus the opportunities and challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic brought in the areas of growth, poverty, redistribution, and social inclusion in Africa. Broad themes that will be covered in the plenary include; conception of frameworks that can forge an inclusive, rapid and sustained growth in Africa; policy options for redistribution and equal opportunities; mechanisms of which COVID-19 has shaped the nexus between growth, inequality, poverty and social inclusion; new insights emanating from recent work on inequality of opportunity and social inclusion in comprehending growth-poverty-inequality nexus; pathways and experiences of implementing social protection programs in Africa; and digital finance adoption and experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and how it is facilitating risk sharing and protection of millions of households from hunger and enabling interpersonal income transfers.

A range of diverse papers will be presented looking at different aspects of this subject matter. Prof. Emeritus Germano Mwangi, University of Nairobi will start the proceedings by examining *Poverty Reduction through Growth, Redistribution and Social Inclusion in Times of COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa, The Underlying Mechanisms*. Next presentation will be on *COVID-19, Poverty, and the Role of Social Protection Systems in Africa* by Dr. Kibrom Abay, Country Program Leader and Research Fellow. The third presentation by Prof. Emeritus Erik Thorbecke, Cornell University will be on *The Interrelationship between Growth, Inequality and Poverty: Some Implications for Fighting the Covid Epidemic in Sub Saharan Africa*.