



# Financial Inclusion & Market Development In East African Economies

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Welcoming Remarks Regional Policy Forum

26 October 2024, Dar es Salaam , Tanzania



## The AERC Approach to Capacity Building and Knowledge Generation in SSA for evidence-based policy making

### AERC

African Economic  
Research Consortium  
Capacity building  
Framework

### RESEARCH

- Thematic Research
- Collaborative Research
- *Mentored over 4,200 economics researchers from over 35 countries*
- Special Workshops

### Policy Outreach

- Senior Policy Seminars
- Regional Policy Forums
- Stakeholders Engagement Workshops
- National Policy Workshops

### Training

- Collaborative Masters Programme (CMAP)
- Collaborative Masters in Applied & Agri. Economics (CMAAE)
- Collaborative PhD Programme (CPP)
- *Mentored over 3800 Masters graduates and over 400 PhD graduates*

Institutions & Network



# The AERC- BMGF Collaborative Research Project

- The Collaborative Research Project ‘Delivering Digital Financial Services for the Poor (DFSP) in EAC’ is also referred to as ‘Inclusive Finance and Market Development for EAC Economies
- Supported by the BMGF with the following key objectives:
  - Study and detail financial inclusion and market development in the East African region that can be used to advance the knowledge base and policy landscape in SSA economies
  - Characterize financial market developments as well as electronic payments interoperability to draw lessons that can drive policy actions in the SSA region.

## The Collaborative Research Project

Project squarely fits in the AERC Strategic Plan for 2020-2025:

- Improving Quality
- Expanding Influence

## The Collaborative Research Project

- To achieve the objectives, AERC has undertaken a set of reinforcing activities in six (6) EAC countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and South Sudan) in collaboration with institutions and individual researchers producing over 20 papers from the project
- The project has focused on the various themes including:
  - Financial Inclusion and financial market development.
  - Strengthening the Financial Sector system and Institutions
  - Interoperable electronic payments system at national, cross-border and regional levels
  - Competition and user/consumer protection issues relevant to digital payments for financial inclusion
  - Development Impacts of DFS in the EAC .
  - The Gender Dimensions of Digital Payment Systems and Financial Inclusion

# Expectations of the Regional Policy Forum

- Increased awareness and understanding of digital financial services for the poor (DFSP) in the EAC

01

02

- To provide policy actors with a platform to discuss DFSP issues in the EAC





# Expectations of the Regional Policy Forum

- To identify policy gaps and windows of opportunities as well as discuss strategies to accelerate Africa's economic growth through addressing DFSP Constraints

01

- Strengthened cooperation and networking among policy stakeholders on DFSP and Crystallization of areas for further research in the DFSP field and policy making

02



## **AERC-BMGF Financial Inclusion and Market Development in EAC RPF**

I once again thank the BMGF for supporting this project and thank all key stakeholders in this event today and warmly welcome you as we shape the new research findings, pave new policy directions, and initiate innovative practices in the areas of DFSP

With these few remarks, I now declare this Policy Forum officially open !

*From the AERC*

*Ahsante Sana*

*Thank You*

*MERCI BEAUCOUP*

*[www.aercafrica.org](http://www.aercafrica.org)*

