



## **REPORT OF ACTIVITIES (2022)**

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## **BACKGROUND**

The Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development (CHSD) ([chsd.unilag.edu.ng](http://chsd.unilag.edu.ng)) at the University of Lagos was established to provide learning and research support for evidence-based policy and practice for the housing and urban development sector in Africa. The Centre is the African Research Universities Alliance Centre of Excellence for Urbanisation and Habitable cities.

The centre is structured around nine thematic areas organized as research clusters.

1. Sustainable Cities and African Urbanization Dynamics Cluster
2. Housing and Regeneration Cluster
3. Urban Health and Livability Cluster
4. Sustainable Urban Design and Infrastructure Cluster
5. Land Management and Administration Cluster
6. Sustainable Construction and Construction Skill Development Cluster
7. Pro-Poor Governance and Management in Africa Cluster
8. Spatial Data Infrastructure Cluster
9. Digital Built Environment Cluster

There are also working groups focused on urban mobility, urban resilience and heritage conservation.

Key activities include housing and urban development research, capacity building programmes, policy engagement and expert group meetings, urban regeneration and advocacy.

Under the dynamic leadership of its Director, Professor Timothy Nubi and Co-Director, Professor Taibat Lawanson the Centre works to establish high visibility for Africa's peculiar urbanization issues and offer profound, workable solutions for ensuring that Africa's urbanization leads to generative, habitable cities rather than dysfunctional cities. As the clusters focus on specific research activities, they serve as platforms for partnering with universities and other members of the development community.

The Centre engages in active research and practice collaborations with federal and state government agencies, non-governmental organizations, real estate developers' association and slum communities.

### **Our Vision:**

To be Africa's foremost Centre of Excellence for housing education, professionalization and research

### **Our Mission:**

In the advancement of housing professionalism, to stimulate a culture of learning and development in the sector through formal training, research and education.

## **CENTRE'S 2022 ACTIVITIES**

As we reflect on our journey throughout the year, we are happy to share the highlights of our activities and engagements.

Here's a summary of our work in 2022:

## 1. Grants

### a. New Grants

- The British Academy – Infrastructures of Wellbeing programme/ Maximising Impact on **Urban Livelihoods and the Circular Economy of End-of-Life tyres: Maximising the Impact of the Pneumacity project**, in collaboration with University of York and University of Toronto (January 2023 – December 2023).

### b. Ongoing Grants

- Research Project Grant by WaterAid, United Kingdom on “**Investigating Livelihood Vulnerabilities and Empowerment opportunities of Lagos Sanitation Workers**” (March 2022- March 2023).
- UKRI-GCRF ARUA Research Excellence Grant on **Migration, Urbanization and Conflict in Africa: Towards Peaceful Urban Futures (MUCA)**, in collaboration with Addis Ababa University, Makerere University and University of Sheffield (2021-2023)
- DAAD SDG Graduate Schools Programme; **WITS-TUB-UNILAG Urban Lab**, in collaboration with Technische Universität Berlin and the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (2021 – 2025)
- British Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences Tackling Global Challenges Programme supported under the Global Challenges Research Fund on **Inclusive Poverty Reduction: in search of a policy framework to support individuals operating in the Informal Economy in Lagos, Nigeria**, in collaboration with the De Montfort University and Nottingham Trent University (2021-2023).
- National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Global Health Research Group on Diet and Activity grant on **A syndemic approach to the prevention of diet and physical activity-related NCDs**, in collaboration with the University of Cambridge (Lead University) (2021 – 2025).
- The British Academy – Infrastructures of Wellbeing Programme on **Pneuma-city Frictional Infrastructure, road ecologies and valorization of end-of-life tyres (ELTs) towards more sustainable urban economies in West African mega-cities** in collaboration with University of Kent (Lead University), University of Toronto and the University of York (2021-2023).
- Lagos ACRC under the **African Cities Research Consortium** (CHSD researchers are participating in City of Systems, Housing, Neighbourhood District and Economic Development, Safety and Security domains and uptake)
- The Research Council of Norway Grant on **Political Transformation in African Cities**, in collaboration with Peace Research Institute Oslo, University of Bristol, University of California Berkeley and University of Gothenberg (2021-2024)

### c. Completed Grants

- IREX-UASP Small Grants Award on **Strengthening Research Communication at the University of Lagos, Nigeria** (March 2022-October 2022)
- The British Academy Writing Workshop Project supported under the Global Challenges Research Fund, in collaboration with the University of Sheffield (2020-2022)

- The British Academy Urban Infrastructures of Wellbeing Programme supported by the Global Challenges Research Fund on **Informal appropriation of public spaces and urban infrastructure for Leisure Physical Activity in Lagos and Yaoundé** in collaboration with the University of Cambridge and the University of Yaounde (2019-2022).

## 2. Scoping Studies

Focus of scoping studies for the year was 'Urban Resilience in Africa', focused on espousing approaches to strengthening resilience across critical urban sectors.

They are:

- Community Participation and Life Cycle Financing for Neighborhood Resilience in Lagos.
- Building Urban Resilience to Flooding and Pollution in Lagos, Nigeria.
- The place of People, Data, and Technology in Building Resilience in African Cities.
- Urban Resilience to Air Pollution and Soot in Port Harcourt, South-South, Nigeria.
- The Future of Resilient Critical Infrastructure in Urban Africa.
- Community-led effort to enhance Resilience in Lagos.
- Appraising the Resilience of Urban Health-Care Building Facilities: A Case Study of Lagos as an Urban City.
- Urban Land Use and Market Resilience: Conceptual Ideas and Empirical Evidence from a Lagos Pilot Study.
- Urban Resilience in Africa: A Study of Land Use Stresses on Urban Environment in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area, Ghana.
- Engendering Tech-Focused Urban Resilience for Sustainable Disaster Management in Africa: Evidence from Banjul, The Gambia.
- The Minna Urban-Rural Resilience: Strengthening Gidan Kwano Community Land Development and Management.
- Resilience to Flood Occurrence in African Cities: A Perspective on Flood Prone Areas of Ibadan, Nigeria.
- Adaptation of Alternative Building Technologies (ABTs) to Address Housing Shortages in Cape Town.
- Bridging the Science-Policy Gap in Urban Resilience Efforts: The Case of Lusaka.

## 3. Capacity Building Activities

- September 2022: The Global Diet and Activity Research (GDAR) Spaces organized a five-day spatial training on **GIS and Mapping of built environments**. The training was done in collaboration with the MRC Epidemiology unit of University of Cambridge.
- July 2022: A three-day workshop on **Critical Thinking and Writing for Urban Studies Researchers in Nigeria**; funded by the British Academy, and facilitated through a collaboration between CHSD and University of Sheffield.
- July 2022: CHSD commenced Phd and Mphil programme in Sustainable Urbanization, with scholarship granted to four students under the WITS-TUB-UNILAG Urban Lab programme.

- July 2022: A research skills workshop on “**An Introduction to Research Grant Writing**”; hosted by the WITS-TUB-UNILAG Urban Lab for early career urban scholars from various African universities.
- July 2022: Masterclass on “**Technological Advancement in Grant Winning Proposals and Methodologies**”; hosted by the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria.
- June 2022: Research dissemination workshop on “**Adaptation Strategies in infectious Disease Management for Residents of Multi-family Housing in Africa**”;
- May 2022: Masterclass on “**Research Ethics**”; hosted by Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria.
- February/March 2022: A two-day capacity building workshop on “**System Approaches for Urban Resilience: Supporting your Scoping Study Research**”.

#### 4. **Multi-sectoral stakeholder engagements**

- December 2022: The African Cities Research Consortium, Lagos, held a two-day **PCP meeting and explorations to LSDP**.
- December 2022: The Heinrich Boell Stiftung and CHSD organized a workshop titled “**Urban Governance Lab Community Mobilization for Urban Development**”. Participating stakeholders include Community Development Associations, Community Development Councils, Academia, Government, NGO and the HBS partners involved in infrastructure and/or municipal development.
- December 2022: The Neighbourhood and District Economic Development (NDED) Domain of the African Cities Research Consortium held a workshop with stakeholders in the household micro enterprises.
- November 2022: The Housing Domain of the African Cities Research Consortium held a community Focus Group Discussion on “**Housing Improvement Financing**” with representatives from different communities.
- November 2022: An Institutional stakeholder meeting for Research Validation and Policy Uptake for “**Frictional Infrastructure, road ecologies and valorization of end-of-life tyres (ELTs) in West African Cities**”.
- October 2022: The Heinrich Boll Stiftung with the CHSD held a two-day workshop titled “**Urban Governance Lab Community Mobilization for Urban Development**”. Participating stakeholders include Community members, Community Development Associations, Traditional Institutions, Nigerian Institute of Town Planners, Academia, Local Government, State Government and the HBS partners involved in infrastructure and/or municipal development.
- October 2022: The Safety and Security Domain of the African Domain of the African Cities Research Consortium hosted a workshop with stakeholders in the Safety and Security Systems.
- September 2022: The Heinrich Boell Stiftung and CHSD hosted a stakeholder’s workshop on Lagos Water Sector Reform Models.
- September 2022: The Housing Domain of the African Cities Research Consortium held a workshop with stakeholders in the housing sector.
- September 2022: The African Cities Research Consortium, Lagos hosted a one-day Interim Workshop.
- September 2022: Inaugural Lagos Resilience Forum of the Lagos Resilience Office (LASRO) was facilitated by CHSD.

- August 2022: Workshop on Conflict and Climate Change in Nigerian cities; research dissemination workshop, in collaboration with Leeds Beckett University Centre for Applied Social Research.
- July 2022: Inception workshop of the WaterAid project on “**The hidden world of Lagos Sanitation Workers**”
- July 2022: The British Academy Humanities and Social Sciences Tackling Global Challenges Programme organized a stakeholder’s workshop titled “**Informal Economy, and the Management and Use of Urban Spaces in Lagos**”.
- June 2022: CHSD hosted the first stakeholder consultation for the Global Diet and Activity Research (GDAR) Spaces Project.
- April 2022: CHSD hosted a stakeholder workshop on **Challenges and Opportunities of Waste Sector Activities in Lagos**.
- April 2022: Housing and Regeneration Cluster hosted a stakeholders’ workshop titled “**Community Participation and Life Cycle Financing for Neighborhood Resilience in Lagos**”.
- March 2022: The American International University of West Africa, The Gambia hosted a public lecture titled **Building Food Systems Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa through Climate Compatible Development**.
- March 2022: The University of Zambia hosted a public lecture titled **Policy options for urban resilience building in Southern Africa: Opportunities, examples and constraints**.
- March 2022: The College of Management & Information Technology, American International University, West Africa, The Gambia hosted a stakeholders’ meeting workshop titled “**Analysis of the Nature and the Impact of Technology on Disaster Management in Banjul, The Gambia**”.
- February 2022: The Resilience Working Group of the Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development, University of Lagos hosted a stakeholder meeting on the research project **Lagos Water Politics in Lagos, Nigeria**.

All stakeholder engagements had full participation of representatives of various government agencies, local communities, formal and informal economic clusters as well as civil society actors.

## 5. Research Seminars/Webinars

- November 2022: “**State of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigerian Cities**” workshop organized by Pro-poor Development Research Cluster in collaboration with the "Architectures of Asylum" project of Technical University of Berlin.
- October 2022: “**Digitalisation and Resilience in the Built Environment**”; hosted by the Digital Built Environment Cluster.
- September 2022: “**Enabling Environment for Inclusive Housing**”; hosted by Housing and Regeneration Cluster in collaboration with Uganda Matryrs university.
- September 2022: “**Resilient Transport Infrastructure in Urban Africa**”; hosted by the Sustainable Urban Design and Infrastructure Cluster.
- August 2022: “**The place of Data Infrastructure in Collaborative Research and Community-Based Governance; The ARUA Experience**”; hosted by the Spatial Data Infrastructure Cluster in collaboration with The American International University of West Africa, Banjul, The Gambia and the Oworo Youth Forum.

- August 2022: **“Flooding & Pollution, Resilient Urban Development: Issues and Challenges”**; hosted by the Urbanization and Population Dynamics Cluster in collaboration with the University of Zambia.
- July 2022: **“Leave No One Behind: From Concept to Action in African Cities”**; hosted by the Pro-poor Development Research Cluster in collaboration with Centre for Urban Management Studies, University of Ghana.
- July 2022: **“Appraising the Resilience of Healthcare Building Facilities across African Cities”**; hosted by the Sustainable Construction and Construction Skill Development Cluster.
- June 2022: **“Urban Land Market Resilience: Choices, Constraints and Way forward”**; hosted by the Land Management and Administration Cluster in collaboration with the Federal University of Technology, Minna.
- June 2022: **“Climate Change, the Burden of diseases and African Cities Resilience”**; hosted by the Urban Health and Liveability Cluster in collaboration with the Centre for Development Support Initiative.
- February 2022: A post-doctoral webinar on **Sustainable Development and Real Estate** hosted by CHSD.

## 6. Conference:

- October 2022: Five researchers from CHSD participated in the **Global Diet and Activity Network Conference** at University of Cambridge
  - October 2022: Professor Timothy Nubi presented a keynote address at the Nigerian Housing Fair
  - October 2022: Prof. Timothy Nubi participated at the **“high level on convening on early career researcher development in the post-Phd phase”** of the Peer-Learning for Emerging Researchers’ Knowledge and Advancement project at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.
  - August 2022: The third Annual Network Conference of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) themed **“Strengthening Urban Resilience in Africa”**; hosted by the Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development.
  - June 2022: Four researchers from CHSD participated in the World Urban Forum in Katowice, Poland convened by (UN Habitat).
  - June 2022: Two panels were held in honour of Prof. Taibat Lawanson at the Lagos Studies Association Conference.
  - June 2022: **“Research Centre Impact Measurement and Assessment”**; hosted by the CHSDat The Gambia.
  - Prof. Taibat Lawanson gave the keynote address at the ASAUK Conference
- Researchers from CHSD also presented academic papers at numerous conferences and workshops.

## 7. Summer School:

- August – September 2022: Phd Sustainable Urbanization candidates participated in a one month research stay at Habitat Unit, Technical University Berlin, Germany, under the WITS-TUB-UNILAG Urban Lab.

- September 2022: CHSD hosted the WITS-TUB-UNILAG Urban Lab 5-day summer school with the theme *Solidarity and Community Resilience* at the University of Lagos, Nigeria. Participants included masters, doctoral and senior researchers from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, Technische Universitat Berlin, University of Lagos, SD Dombo University of Business and Integrated Development Studies, Ghana, Federal University of Technology Akure, Lagos. Resilience Office, Rethinking Cities and the Nigerian Slum/Informal Settlement Federation. The activities included plenary sessions, group work field visit, task presentation, PhD Clinic – Open forum and a City Tour of Lagos.

## 8. **Fellowships:**

- ARUA CoE announces Visiting Scholars Mobilities: 17 Scholars from African Universities won highly competitive mini mobility Grants in three categories: Visiting Researcher Mobility Grants, Conference Presentation Mobility Grants and Network Workshop Mini- Travel Grants. This is in fulfilment of the mandate of the CoE to strengthen African-African and African-UK collaborations.
- Dr. Basirat Oyalowo won the prestigious Urban Studies Foundation Fellowship for postdoctoral researchers
- Prof. Timothy Nubi was conferred with the fellowship of Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers
- Prof. Taibat Lawanson became a member of Future Earth's steering committee of Urban Knowledge Action Network

## 9. **Visiting Researchers**

- **Dr. Saheed Matemilola**, Department of Public Law, Brandenburg University of Technology, Germany. (September 2021 – March 2022)
- **Dr Milicent Akaateba, Department of Planning and Land Management, SD Dombo** University of Development Studies, Ghana. (September/October 2022)

## 10. **Exhibition:**

January 2022: CHSD participated in the exhibition at the 52nd Convocation Ceremony of the University of Lagos themed Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

## 11. **Publications**

### a. **Books:**

- Lawanson T and Odunbaku. R (eds) (2022) **Towards Sustainable Urbanisation in Nigeria: Essays in Honour of Mariam Yunusa**. Lagos: University of Lagos Press
- Nubi.T, Oyalowo. B and Lawanson T (eds) (2022) **Informality and Inequality in Urban Africa: Imperatives for Research Policy and Practice**. Lagos: University of Lagos Press.

### b. **Journals:**

- African Journal of Housing and Sustainable Development (Vol 2, No 1 (2022) and Vol 3, No 1 (2022).

Researchers from CHSD also contributed 10 articles to peer reviewed scholarly journals and 13 book chapters to edited volumes, in addition to numerous short articles in general interest platforms.



## 12. **Collaborations:**

In the course of the year, CHSD collaborated with many stakeholders and partners including:

- Federal University of Technology, Akure
- Federal University of Technology, Minna
- Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife
- Addis Ababa University
- Makerere University
- University of Yaounde
- University of Cape Town
- University of Ghana
- SD Dombo University of Integrated Business and Development, Ghana
- University of Zambia
- University of Nairobi
- Ugandan Matryrs University
- Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre
- American International University of Gambia
- University of Witwatersrand
- African Research Universities Alliance
- De Montfort University
- Nottingham Trent University
- Leeds Beckett University
- University of Cambridge
- University of Sheffield
- University of Bristol
- University of Kent
- University of Gothenburg
- Peace Research Institute, Oslo
- Technical University Berlin
- DAAD SDG Graduate Schools
- University of California Berkeley
- University of Toronto
- Global Resilient Cities Network
- Rethinking cities
- Lagos Urban Development Initiative
- Arctic Infrastructure
- Heinrich Boell Stiftung
- IREX-UASP
- WaterAid
- FESOLAB
- Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria
- Pan African Vision for the Environment
- Spaces for Change
- Lagos state Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs
- Lagos State Resilience Office
- Lagos State Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development
- Lagos state Community Development Advisory Council
- Nigerian Slum/Informal Settlement Federation
- Federation of Informal Workers Organisation of Nigeria
- Nigerian Association of Waste pickers
- Recyclers Association of Nigeria
- Ajegunle Ikorodu Community
- Akoka Community
- Oworonshoki Community
- Makoko Community
- University of York
- University of Durham
- University of Liverpool
- University of Manchester