



UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS



CENTRE FOR HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ARUA CoE IN URBANIZATION AND HABITABLE CITIES

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES (2023)

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BACKGROUND

The Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development (CHSD) (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 2023 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 2023:

1. Grants

New Grants

- ARUA-The Guild Clusters of Research Excellence (CoRE) Initiative. Building Capacities for Interdisciplinary Peace Research: Exploring Conflict, Environment, Technology, Inequality, and Identity in Africa.
- Writing workshop on migrant trajectories and livelihood transformation in Nigeria – (March 2023 – December 2024). Funded by British Academy International Writing Workshop Series
- Writing Campus Modernisms. Funded by British Academy – International Writing Workshops Alumni Funding. 2023-2024
- Strengthening water access and quality in selected African countries", Funded by Afretec Network Inclusive Digital Transformation Research Grant. 2023 – 2025
- Building Sustainable Neighborhoods in African Cities. Funded by Formas (Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development) 2023 – 2026

Ongoing Grants

- 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) (extended to March 2024)
- DAAD SDG Graduate Schools Programme; **WITS-TUB-UNILAG Urban Lab**, in collaboration with Technische Universität Berlin and the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (2021 – 2025)
- 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).
- 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) (approved for second phase funding)
- 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)

Completed 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).
- Research Project Grant by WaterAid, United Kingdom on **“Investigating Livelihood Vulnerabilities and Empowerment opportunities of Lagos Sanitation Workers”** (March 2022- March 2023).
- 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).

- 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).

2. Capacity Building Activities

- November 2023: The Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Leeds Beckett University and Benue State University hosted post doctoral workshop on 17 participants for a three-day writing workshop under the British Academy Writing workshop on migrant trajectories and livelihood transformation in Nigeria.
- April 2023: Delegates from the ARUA Centre of Excellence for Urbanization and Habitable Cities visited the University of Glasgow researchers who focus on urbanisation and housing, infectious and non-communicable diseases, and smart cities.
- April 2023: Delegates from the ARUA Centre of Excellence for Urbanization and Habitable Cities, University of Lagos, Nigeria visited the Durham University to take part in Research Management training and collaboration discussions with the Durham University.
- February - June 2023: CHSD with support of Heinrich Boell Stiftung trained five Lagos communities on community asset mapping using a citizen science approach

3. Multi-sectoral stakeholder engagements

- December 2023: The Centre officially kicked off the Ideal Habitat Housing Cooperative as an experiment for enhancing home ownership opportunities through for University of Lagos staff
- December 2023: The Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development hosted the members of the Nigerian Federation of Slum and Informal Settlement Residents and Slum Dwellers International to a collaborative meeting and sharing of ideas for promoting pro-poor development.
- December 2023: CHSD in collaboration with Rethinking Cities Initiative and Heinrich Boell Stiftung hosted a Multi stakeholder workshop on Housing, Water, Waste and Community Development as it relates to the Lagos Economic Development Plan
- November 2023: The Centre for Housing Sustainable in collaboration with The Migration, Urbanization and Conflict in Africa: Towards Peaceful Urban Futures held a data research dissemination and stakeholders' workshop.
- November 2023: The Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development in collaboration with the University of Kent, the University of Toronto and the University of York held a stakeholder's workshop 2023 titled "**The Tangible Value of Waste**".
- August 2023: The Global Diet and Activity Research Project held its second stakeholder consultation workshop. It had in attendance stakeholders from the government, NGOs, and private sector.
- July 2023: The ARUA CoE for Urbanization and Habitable Cities held its close-out workshop themed "**African Cities between Infrastructure, Resilience and Informality**" at the African International Housing Show which took place at the International Conference Center, Abuja, Nigeria.
- June 2023: The Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development hosted the members of the Federation of Informal Workers Organization and Streetnet International to a collaborative meeting and sharing of ideas for promoting pro-poor economic development in Africa.
- May 2023: The African Cities Research Consortium held an Uptake Forum with stakeholders from the government, FIWON and the private sector.
- May 2023: The African Cities Research Consortium held a stakeholder workshop with Lagos Business and Political elite.
- May 2023: The Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development in partnership with the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria held a focus group discussion on "**Housing Finance for**

Cooperative Societies in Nigeria

- May 2023: The ARUA Centre of Excellence for Urbanization and Habitable Cities organized a two-day workshop titled ***“Policy Engaged Research for PhD Students in Africa”***.
- April 2023: The University of Zambia Centre for Urban Research and Planning in collaboration with the African Research Network for Urbanization and Habitable Cities hosted a two-day workshop titled ***“Equitable Climate Urban Transitions and Just Futures”***.
- April 2023: The Pneumacity research team had a roundtable discussion on the ***“Frictional Infrastructure, road ecologies and valorization of end-of-life tyres (ELTs) in West African Cities”***.
- April 2023: The British Academy of Humanities and Social Science held a stakeholder workshop on the Informal Economy: The Management and Use of Urban Spaces in Lagos.
- March 2023: The Centre for Urban Management Studies, University of Ghana hosted a two-day workshop titled ***“Mainstreaming Sidewalks in Road Transport Infrastructural Development”***.
- March 2023: The South African Hub of the ARUA Centre of Excellence in Urbanization and Habitable Cities, University of Cape Town, and the African Research Network for the ARUA CoE in Urbanization and Habitable Cities at the University of Lagos (Housing and Regeneration Cluster) hosted a two-day blended workshop titled ***“The Future of Urbanization and Informality in African Cities”***.
- March 2023: The University of Lagos ARUA-UKRI Centre of Excellence for Urbanization and Habitable Cities, and the Land Management and Administration Cluster in partnership with ARUA-UKRI (Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria) Spoke Team, hosted a Two-Day blended workshop titled ***“Studying Cities: Hands-on guide to Qualitative Research Methods”***.
- February 2023: The African Research Universities (ARUA) organized a two-day Workshop on Centre’s of Excellence (CoEs) at the University of Mauritius to enable the thirteen (13) CoEs to come together and take stock of their achievements while planning for the future. The main objective of the Workshop was to look at life after the UKRI Grant and how to make the ARUA CoEs sustainable.
- February 2023: The Housing Domain of the African Cities Research Consortium held a stakeholder meeting.
- February 2023: The African Cities Research Consortium held its Priority complex problems Meeting with the lead of each domain under the research consortium.

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.

4. Research Seminars/Webinars

- October 2023: The ARUA Centre of Excellence in Urbanization and Habitable Cities hosted a webinar on the World Cities Day in Lagos titled ***“Financing Sustainable Urban Future for AIF”***.
- July 2023: The ARUA Centre of Excellence for Urbanization and Habitable Cities hosted a masterclass session on ***“Research for Affordable Housing Policy and Delivery in Africa”*** at the Africa International Housing Show at Abuja.
- June 2023: WITS-TUB-UNILAG Urban Lab hosted a panel on at European Conference on African Studies, Cologne Germany on ***Africa’s Urban Futures and Positionalities Towards Global Urban Policies***
- January 2023: The WITS-TUB-UNILAG Urban Lab hosted a postgraduate supervisors webinar with the theme ***“Mentoring Postgraduate Students”***.

5. Conference/Lecture

- November 2023: The Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development participated in the 5th

Lateef Jakande Annual Lecture on Housing.

- November 2023: The ARUA Centre of Excellence in Urbanization and Habitable Cities held a multi-stakeholder workshop on the theme “**Higher Education and the Future of Sustainable Urbanization in Africa**” at the Fourth ARUA Biennial International Conference, at the **Tayo Aderinokun Lecture Theatre, University of Lagos**.
 - July 2023: A guest lecture by Dr. Gilbert Siame from the University of Zambia, titled “**Africa’s Urban Futures: What do we know and what do we still need to know to achieve sustainable urbanization in Africa?**”
 - June 2023: Inaugural Lecture of Professor Taibat Lawanson titled “**Alternative Urbanisms: Beyond Utopian Visions of the Emerging Africa Cities**”
 - May 2023: The centre participated in the 33rd Research Conference of Shelter Afrique
- Researchers from CHSD also presented academic papers at numerous conferences and workshops, including Lagos Studies Association, European Conference on African Studies, etc.

6. Research Stays:

- October 2023: Dr Victor Ilechukwu from Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Lagos visited the University of Ghana
- June 2023: Dr. Julius Faremi from the Department of Building, University of Lagos visited the Stellenbosch University, South Africa.
- April 2023: Dr. Oluwole Philip from Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria visited University of Zambia.
- April 2023: Dr Kennedy Eborika from Department of Sociology, University of Lagos visited University of Sheffield for one month postdoctoral research stay
- April 2023: Dr Esther Thontteh visited University of Sheffield for one month postdoctoral research stay
- April 2023: Mr. Olawale Fabiyi a Technical Researcher from, American International University, West Africa. The Gambia visited the University of Cape Town.
- March 2023: CHSD Director received the representative of the Nigeria University Commission at the Centre.
- March 2023: Dr. Esther Thontteh from the Department of Estate Management, University of Lagos, Nigeria visited the University of Stirling.
- February 2023: Prof. Martin Dada from the Department of Building, University of Lagos, Nigeria visited Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh for ten days.

Postdoctoral Fellows

- November 2023 – October 2024: Dr. Femi Balogun, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Ibadan. Post doctoral fellowship ARUA-Carnegie
- July 2023 – June 2025 Dr Samson Olanrewaju, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Osun State University. WITS-TUB-UNILAG Urban Lab Post doctoral fellowship.
- July 2023 – June 2025 Dr Haruna Jimoh, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Lagos, WITS-TUB-UNILAG Urban Lab Postdoctoral Fellowship

Visiting Researchers

The centre hosted the following visiting researchers for research stays

- July 2023: Dr Gilbert Siame, Centre for Urban Research and Planning, University of Zambia
- June – August 2023: Melissa Pavlik, Department of Political Science, Yale University,
- July – August 2023: Dr. Akin Iwilade, Centre for African Studies, University of Edinburgh.
- January 2023: Mr. James Ogunbiyi, Department of Estate Management, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

7. **Exhibition:**

- July 2023: CHSD participated in the exhibition at the African International Housing Show which took place at the International Conference Center, Abuja, Nigeria.

8. **Publications**

a. **Books:**

- Nubi.T, Oyalowo. B and Lawanson T (eds) (2022) **COVID-19 Adaptation Strategies of Residents of Multi-Family Housing in Lagos** Lagos: University of Lagos Press

b. **Journals:**

- African Journal of Housing and Sustainable Development (Vol 4, No 1 (2023) and Vol 4, No 2 (2023))

- c. **African Cities Blog:** Researchers, authors, and professionals are welcome to share their expertise and viewpoints regarding the ever-changing urban environments of African cities.

Researchers from the centre also contributed to journal articles, book chapters, etc .

9. **Collaborations:**

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

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| ➤ Federal University of Technology, Akure | ➤ Heinrich Boell Stiftung |
| ➤ Federal University of Technology, Minna | ➤ IREX-UASP |
| ➤ Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife | ➤ WaterAid |
| ➤ Addis Ababa University | ➤ FESOLAB |
| ➤ University of Ibadan | ➤ Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria |
| ➤ Makerere University | ➤ Pan African Vision for the Environment |
| ➤ University of Yaounde | ➤ Spaces for Change |
| ➤ University of Cape Town | ➤ Lagos State Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs |
| ➤ University of Ghana | ➤ Lagos State Resilience Office |
| ➤ SD Dombo University of Integrated Business and Development, Ghana | ➤ Lagos State Ministry of Housing |
| ➤ University of Zambia | ➤ Lagos State Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development |
| ➤ University of Nairobi | ➤ Lagos state Community Development Advisory Council |
| ➤ Ugandan Matryrs University | ➤ OPS-WASH (Organized Private Sector in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) |
| ➤ Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre | ➤ Nigerian Slum/Informal Settlement Federation |
| ➤ Osun State University | ➤ Federation of Informal Workers Organisation of Nigeria |
| ➤ American International University of Gambia | ➤ Nigerian Association of Waste pickers |
| ➤ University of Witwatersrand | ➤ Recyclers Association of Nigeria |
| ➤ Stellenbosch University, South Africa | ➤ Ajegunle Ikorodu Community |
| ➤ University of Gothenburg | ➤ Iwaya Community |
| ➤ Peace Research Institute, Oslo | ➤ Ago Central CDA |
| ➤ Technical University Berlin | ➤ Ifelodun Community |
| ➤ African Research Universities Alliance | ➤ Anuoluwapo Community |
| ➤ DAAD SDG Graduate Schools | ➤ Akoka Community |
| ➤ Global Resilient Cities Network | ➤ Oworonshoki community |
| ➤ Nigeria University Commission | ➤ Ogooluwakitan community |
| ➤ University of California Berkeley | |
| ➤ University of Toronto | |
| ➤ Rethinking cities | |
| ➤ Lagos Urban Development Initiative | |
| ➤ Arctic Infrastructure | |

- Bariga Community
- Makoko Community
- De Montfort University
- Nottingham Trent University
- Leeds Beckett University
- University of Cambridge
- University of Durham
- University of Liverpool

- University of Sheffield
- University of Bristol
- University of Kent
- University of York
- University of Stirling
- Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh
- University of Manchester