



**African Population and
Health Research Center**

DISCUSSION FORUM ON DEVELOPING AN AFRICA-CENTERED CARE ECONOMY

February 24-25, 2025

Saly, Senegal

AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

Supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Consortium for Research on the Generational Economy, Senegal (CREG) in collaboration with the partners jointly conducted the 'Care Economy Africa Project' (CEAP), to develop a grounded approach to address these queries and critically engage the dominant Women and Unpaid Care Work (WUCW)/care economy and 'centrality of the family' frames. The project's goal is to help advance national, continental and international policy and scientific discourses, and advance considerations of ways to forge transformative future for care systems in Africa.

The partners are convening a two-day forum which bring together key actors from government, civil society, policy, and academic spheres in the women's empowerment, family and gender sectors in Senegal and the wider region to:

1. Share knowledge and expertise on the current/evolving perspectives and activities in the field of 'care economy' across policy-, practice- funder and academic spheres;
2. Share and foster discussion on the major findings but also experiences/learnings- and new queries generated by the project; and
3. Share- and seek participants' concrete ideas and suggestions on- the 'so what' and 'what next' - i.e. the envisaged plans for building on the projects' outcomes

BACKGROUND

The global 'women's unpaid care work' (WUCW) and allied 'care economy' agenda (Dugarova, 2020; ILO, 2020a, b), encapsulated in SDG Target 5.4 is concerned with a need to recognize, reduce and redistribute the 'unfair burden' of care work on women who, within family contexts, provide the bulk of 'unpaid' care to older adults (as well as to children and the sick) in Africa and worldwide. The WUCW agenda, which has gathered momentum in a number of countries over the past decade, understands the significant inputs of time and energy associated with such 'unpaid' family caregiving as constraints on women's opportunities to work or pursue other 'productive' activities (UNRISD, 2016; Razavi, 2007; UN Women, 2018, ILO, 2018). Unpaid care work is seen, consequently, as a major barrier to women's economic empowerment (WEE) and gender equality. Propelled by focused internationally-driven policy, advocacy and engagement efforts at national and local levels (UN Women, 2018, 2020), the agenda centers on a need to expand formal, paid care provisioning, shifting '...the responsibility of...care work [from families] to the State and

private sector’(Oxfam, 2020; Feminist Task Force, 2021, UN Women, 2018) . Such a shift is expected to empower erstwhile unpaid female family carers – by freeing up their time and energy (Oxfam, 2020; ILO, 2018; Clark et al., 2021) and, at societal level, to yield increased employment and enterprise opportunities, as well as greater tax revenues, through an expanded formal care services sector (UN Women, 2018, ILO, 2018, 2021; Antonopoulos, 2009).

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project is made of four work packages:

Work Package One (WP1): Drawing explicitly on a combination of pan African feminist- and decolonial perspectives, (i) critiques both WUCW/care economy and the ‘centrality of the family’ agendas- which coexist somewhat uneasily as the two dominant frames for understanding the problematics of- and required solutions for care and (ii) a proposes epistemological, theoretical and analytical framework for generating a potentially transformative, grounded account of the problematics and solutions for care.

Work Package Two (WP2): Macroeconomic modelling to estimate the contribution, to national income, of the paid and unpaid care economy by estimating and determining the value of paid and unpaid care economy and construct GEM-Care social accounting matrix (SAM) databases for both countries. Further; WP2 developed gender-sensitive, macroeconomic models that incorporate the care economy, identify its links with the demographic dividend, market economy, and gender inequality, and investigate feedback effects of various fiscal, employment and social policies on relevant outcomes such as, employment, economic growth, earnings, and income distribution.

Work Package Three (WP3): Brings together and engages advocacy coalitions comprising relevant government, civil society and technical national and regional actors to identify and connect agendas that are relevant to, and have a stake in the care economy, with a view to forging frames for a care-focused nexus of common interest.

Work Package Four (WP4): Connects the CEAP to the global ‘care economies in context’ programme hosted and run by the Centre for Global Social Policy at the University of Toronto in order to foster a cross-fertilization of ideas, the development of comparative data collection, analysis between Africa and other regions, and consideration of the relevance of critical Africa-centred perspectives for thinking about care in other geographies.

PROGRAMME

DAY 1 – February 24, 2025

Time	Activity	Presenter / Moderator
SECTION I		
08.30 – 09.00	Arrivals and Technical arrangement	Mame Coura Ndiaye Kama
09.00 – 09.30	Welcoming and Introductory Remarks by Participants	All
09.30 – 10.30	Introduction and background on the Care Economy Africa project - WP1,2,3,4	Isabella Aboderin, Latif Dramani, Ito Peng
10.30 – 13.00	SECTION II	
	<i>Other work and perspectives in the field of 'care economy' across policy-, practice- funder and academic spheres</i>	
	Presentation 1 - Government of Senegal	TBC
	Presentation 2 – A matter of poverty? Care for children and dependent adults, evidence from the Senegalese Time Use survey	Malck Sylla
	Presentation 3 – How do you finance your care deficit in Africa: the rôle of generational solidarities and gender	Aissata Fall
	Presentation 4 - Lifecycle deficit and Care deficit in Western Africa Countries	Latif Dramani
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch	
14.30 – 15.30	SECTION III	
	Care Economy Africa project WP 1 Outcomes	
	Presentation 1: Pan-African feminist and decolonial perspectives – and a proposed frame for generating new understandings of LTC problematics and solutions	Isabella Aboderin
	Presentation 2: Evolution of women economic empowerment in Kenya	Gloria Langat
15.30 – 16.00	Tea/Coffee/Break	
16.00 – 18.00	SECTION IV	
	Care Economy Africa project WP 2 Outcomes	
	Presentation 1: Overview of classical Social Accountability Matrix (SAM)	Pr Dramani/ Edem Akpo
	Presentation 2: Methodology of Incorporation of Paid and Unpaid Care into SAM	

Presentation 3: Structure of The Unpaid And Paid Care Sector In Economy: Results of Kenya and Senegal

16.30 – 17.00	Wrap up of Day 1
19.00 – 21.00	Group Dinner

DAY 2 - February 25, 2025

Time	Activity	Presenter / Moderator
09.00 – 09.30	Recap of Day 1	
09.30 – 11.00	SECTION V	
	Discussion: Distilling major queries and required future inquiry emerging from WP1 and 2 findings	Ito Peng/All
10.30 – 11.00	Tea/Coffee/Break	
11.00 – 13.00	SECTION VII	
	Ways forward and closing remarks	Isabella Aboderin
	Discussion: What are the emerging knowledge gaps/further research needs identified by the Care Economy in Africa Project ?	
	Discussion: What are the next steps and future policy, advocacy and programmatic initiatives to be addressed?	
10.30 – 11.00	Closing Remarks	Latif Dramani
14.00 – 14.30	Lunch/Break	