WGAPE's goal is to understand the core issues in the political economy of African development, including ethnic politics, civil conflict and violence, decentralization, democratization, corruption, and local governance.

Regional and national meetings are built around in-depth discussions of working papers, with an emphasis on extensive discussion rather than presentation. This provides opportunities for critical feedback on work in progress, and graduate students are a central pillar to the network and its sustained success. A special effort is made to invite advanced students to submit and present, and each meeting offers an opportunity for them to build their professional networks, receive constructive feedback from leading faculty, and collaborate on new projects.

WGAPE encourages diversity: 35% of executive committee members are female, and the network supports African scholars in submitting and presenting at meetings.
CEGA’s work is organized into a series of initiatives that each address a specific challenge. Our initiatives fund coordinated portfolios of projects, with the resulting lessons synthesized into bodies of policy-relevant evidence for decision-makers. Portfolios are organized into topical sectors or cross-cutting themes.

CEGA’s Work

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WGAPe research has impacts beyond academia; findings have been integrated to policy decisions, and formation, notably through the following engagements by our network of researchers:

- Large scale-ups of chlorine dispensers for safe water to improve public goods provisions and health outcomes for 840,000,000 in Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, and Haiti\(^1\);
- Policy consultation on Northern Uganda Social Action Fund Project (NUSAf) cash-grants program to reduce unemployment, reduce weakened social bonds, increase civic engagement, and lower the risk of instability\(^2\);
- Program creation with prominent East African NGO, Taweza, to increase citizen engagement with evidence from educational information interventions in Kenya\(^3\).

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