



Charles Telfair Centre Paper Series 2: Harnessing Inclusive Growth and Development in Mauritius

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Call for papers

Background:

The Centre publishes data and evidence on topics relevant to Mauritius and the region's development prospects.

We welcome contributions from both **researchers** and **practitioners** (private sector, NGO and government).

We encourage **researchers** (including doctoral students) to delve into their current research work and publications and share their key findings on topics relevant to the series: the principle being to translate scientific findings into an accessible language for all relevant stakeholders in Mauritius and the region to access. This can be summaries of previously or currently being published work. We are particularly interested in applied research from which specific recommendations can be derived.

We encourage **practitioners** to analyse their own realities and practices and share insights into the issues and solutions that have been uncovered, explored, or implemented in their respective activities/practices.

Harnessing Inclusive Growth and Development in Mauritius

With an average GDP growth rate of 4.1%¹ over the last 20 years and a successful structural transformation of its economy, Mauritius remains one of the success stories of the African continent². The country has a long history of relative inclusive growth and until recently the country was one of the rare economies that succeeded in growing rapidly while maintaining a relatively equal distribution of income.

The trend, however, has been reversing in the last decade. Between 2001 and 2015 the gap between the income of the poorest and the richest 10 percent increased by 37%³ with disparity in household income from labour being the main factor behind rising inequalities. The headcount poverty level was 10,2 percent in 2017 (national poverty line) but less than 1 percent if measured by the international standard of U.S.\$2 per day (PPP). There has been a polarisation of the economy associated with a structural transformation from labour-intensive industries to services and knowledge-intensive industries (World Bank, 2020). The current COVID induced crisis will, it is expected, deepen this polarisation.

The challenge for Mauritius is double: restart the economy and ensure that the proceeds of economic growth are distributed fairly across social groups.

The significant drop in demand⁴, the depreciation of the rupee, disruptions in international supplies, the EU blacklisting and a tourism sector that will probably not fully re-open before the second half of 2021 combined with structural constraints (gradual decline of the sugar & textile sectors, low SME productivity, sluggish high-value innovation) are all challenges to an economic recovery.

Mauritius' ability to sustain its recently acquired high-income status will depend on its ability to re-start its economy and generate a more pro-poor, inclusive, pattern of growth.

To help us unpack routes and challenges to Mauritius' inclusive growth path, the Centre is initiating a new series of 12 papers and welcome propositions covering, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Building export competitiveness and diversification: examples of success; analysis of challenges.
- COVID impact on the fabric of poverty and inequality in Mauritius
- Reinvention of existing sectors (Tourism, Finance and Global Business, Agriculture, Manufacturing) and development of new economic sectors: examples of success stories
- Efficiency/adequacy of the current Mauritius Social Register System and ways forward
- Intersectional dimensions of inequity (gender, ethnicity, race, religion, disability, etc.)
- CSR and poverty
- Pro-poor macroeconomic policies
- Addressing rising debt, depletion of foreign exchange earnings and the rupee depreciation
- Fostering SME development: new technologies, productivity growth, export markets and access to finance.

¹ World Bank Data.

² J. Frankel, 'Mauritius: African Success Story', NBER Working Paper Series, *Vol. w16569* (2010); J.E. Stiglitz, 'The Mauritius Miracle' *Project Syndicate*, 7 March 2011.

³ World Bank Group. 2018. Mauritius Addressing Inequality through More Equitable Labor Markets. World Bank, Washington, DC.

⁴ Business Mauritius & Statistics Mauritius, 'Impact of Covid-19 on business In Mauritius' 2020.

- Green economy potential as a new pillar for Mauritius
- Governance and regulatory environment
- Promoting quality of public and private services especially education & health
- Addressing and adapting to climate change and poverty incidence of climate change and related shock (including COVID, Wakashio)

We support inquiry using diverse kinds of evidence, relying on a variety of methodological approaches (including comparative case studies) and cutting across academic disciplines, as well as practitioners' projects insofar as they are in line with our editorial guidelines.

Our first batch of submission will need to reach us by **30th January 2021** and will require:

- An up-to-date CV
- An abstract not exceeding 300 words summarising the research questions and key findings.
- Full length article can also be submitted

The second batch of submission will need to reach us by **28th February 2021**.

The publication of articles will be spread over 12 months. Once the abstract has been accepted, the full-length paper will need to reach us 4 weeks prior to the planned publication date to allow for copy and content editorial work.

We invite contributors to read our [editorial guidelines](#), for more information.

Proposals and enquiries should be sent to myriam.blin@telfair.ac.mu