

CUTS Africa in Action

October-December 2014



EVENTS

CREW Project: NRG-III Meeting

CUTS Accra, Ghana organised the Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social and Economic Welfare in Developing Countries – Third National Reference Group (CREW Project NRG III) meeting for the project entitled ‘Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social and Economic Welfare in Developing Countries’ on October 29, 2014. At the meeting, the NRG members aided in the identification of key issues from both the Staple Food and Bus Transport Sector to be carried out in the advocacy phase sectors of the project in Ghana. The event was held at the Paloma Hotel, Ring Road Central, Accra, Ghana.

PACT-EAC Regional Annual Meeting

The Third Regional Annual Meeting, under the theme ‘Building on Momentum for Impact: Intertwining Climate, Food, Trade Policies’ was organised on 03-04 November 2014 in Bujumbura, Burundi. The event was held, under the project entitled ‘Promoting Agriculture-Climate-Trade Linkages in the Eastern African Community (PACT-EAC) with an objective to bridge the gaps in awareness, knowledge and understanding of policy-making and implementation capacity in the EAC to effectively deal with the interface of climate change-food security-trade.

CSO Meeting on the Cross-Border Traders Charter

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia has been co-opted by the World Bank (WB) to represent all the CSO’s in the implementation of the Cross-Border Traders Charter and to work hand in hand with the Cross-Border Traders Association to push forward the agenda of the dissemination and communication of the Charter. As a way of contributing to this process, CUTS, Caritas Zambia and Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) Zambia have partnered to popularise the Charter initiative. CUTS in collaboration with Caritas Zambia and Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) organised a civil society organisation (CSO) meeting to discuss the implementation of the Charter.

CREW International Conference

CUTS International had organised an International Conference in Bangkok, Thailand from 18-19 November, 2014, under the auspices of (CREW Project) to showcase the methodology developed for promoting competition reforms in key sectors like Staple Food and Bus Transport in developing countries. Renowned competition experts and practitioners from across the world participated in the conference. NRG members and experts in the passenger and Staple Food sectors from the project countries (Ghana, India, the Philippines and Zambia) also attended the conference for the study undertaken.

Dissemination Workshop on State of Play of CSR

Dissemination Workshop was held on the 04 December 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya, under the Project ‘State of Play of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Kenya’. The objective of the study was to develop knowledge and understanding on the state of implementation of CSR in the private sector (focussing on the decent work agenda) by collecting opinions from trade unions, civil society organisations (CSO), private and public sectors, workers and company representatives in Kenya.

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Events | 1-2 |
| New Projects | 2 |
| Representations | 2 |
| Forthcoming Events | 3 |
| Publications | 3 |
| Reflections From Media | 4 |

EVENTS

World Competition Day Celebrations

CUTS Accra, Ghana organised a Policy Roundtable discussion on the theme, 'Competition Issues in Public Procurement' on December 03, 2014 to complement the 'World Competition Day' celebrations globally. CUTS Accra appealed to the Government of Ghana and the Ministry of Trade and Industry to make the passage of the Competition Policy and Law a legislative agenda for 2015.

NEW PROJECTS

Advocating for a Functional Competition Regime/Framework

CUTS Accra, Ghana with funding support from the Business Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC) Fund is implementing a project entitled 'Advocating for a Functional Competition Regime/Framework', referred to as the (COMPAD). The main objective of the project is to advocate a well-enforced competition regime in Ghana. CUTS Accra is certain that a national competition regime in the country will reduce the uncertainty for businesses, as well as, serve as an important element of a regulatory package for private sector development. The project will be implemented over a period of 15 month.

Integrating Consumers' Voice in the Regional Integration Process

CUTS Accra, Ghana with funding support from the Support to West African Regional Integration Programme (SWARIP) is implementing a project entitled "Integrating Consumers' Voice in the Regional Integration Process: A Pilot in Select West African Countries". The main objective of the project is to assess the prevailing state of engagement of consumer groups/civil society in the issue of regional integration in select West African countries. Additionally, it is to lobby national and regional institutions to take account of consumer interests in regional integration process. The project will be implemented over a six-month period and it is scheduled to begin in October of 2014. The Department for International Development (DFID) funds SWARIP.

REPRESENTATIONS

Appiah Adomako of CUTS Accra participated in the Ghanaian Panel on Economic Development organised by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) at Akosombo from October 16-18, 2014.

Faith Mwamba of CUTS Lusaka and **Appiah Adomako** attended the CREW International Conference in Bangkok, Thailand held from the 17-21, November. The purpose of the meeting was to share the key findings from the country diagnostic reports from all the project countries.

Daniel Asher of CUTS Nairobi participated in the dissemination workshop for phase I 'Banking Sector Market Inquiry' in Kenya, organised by the Competition Authority of Kenya during December 10, 2014 at Crown Plaza Hotel.

Susanne Rabisch of CUTS Nairobi attended a workshop on 'Corporate Social Responsibility and 'Child Labour' organised by Federation of Kenya Employers' and 'Save the Children' on November 25, 2014 at Panafrique Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

Appiah Adomako and **Edayatu Lamptey** of CUTS, Accra participated in the Business Sector Advocacy Sector Challenge (BUSAC) Fund Training on Financial Management on December 09-12, 2014.

Munu Martin Luther of CUTS Nairobi attended a Public Lecture on 'The Collective Security Imperative in Regional Integration and African Unity' organised by Vision and East Africa in collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Foundation and Vision East Africa Annual General Meeting on November 08-09, 2014 at Holiday Inn in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Annie M Siame of CUTS Lusaka attended and represented CUTS Lusaka, at the Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) Merger guidelines validation workshop on November 21, 2014. The objective of the workshop was to enable stakeholders to make final input into the drafting process following earlier comments received on the May 17, 2014 for adoption by Board of Commissioners.

Munu Martin Luther and **Faith Mwamba** represented CUTS Nairobi and CUTS Lusaka, at the 'World Competition Day' commemoration held on December 05, 2014, under the theme 'Competition Issues in Public Procurement'. CUTS' Board member Yusuf Dodia also represented CUTS at the event.

Daniel Asher of CUTS Nairobi participated in the 03 Akiba Uhaki Foundation East Africa Regional Grantee Partners Reflection Convening and the Arusha Academia from 04-06 November 2014 at the Palace Hotel, Arusha Academy from 04-06 November 2014 at the Palace Hotel, Arusha, Tanzania.

Munu Martin Luther of CUTS Nairobi made a presentation on 'Agriculture and Food Security in the Horn of Africa; Policies and Advocacy Programmes' at the Horn of Africa Food Security Forum from 09-11, December 2014 at Crown Plaza Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NRG-IV Meeting of CREW Project

CUTS Accra, Ghana and CUTS Lusaka in February 2015 will host the fourth National Reference Group (NRG) Meeting of the CREW project. In the meeting the work plan of the advocacy phase would be discussed with the NRG members.

Validation Meeting on the Impact of the Competition Reforms on Business Development

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia has been undertaking a research, which aims at assessing the efficacy of the current competition regulatory and legal regime in promoting business growth in Zambia. Having produced a draft report, a validation meeting is scheduled to be held on February 19, 2015.

Monitoring and Evaluation Training

CUTS Accra, Ghana in the first quarter of the year 2015, would be participating in a week-long monitoring and evaluation training programme on “Integrating Consumers’ Voice in the Regional Integration Process: A Pilot in Select West African Countries Monitoring and Evaluation” Workshop organised by DFID for all its grantees/beneficiaries.

Public Symposium on the Impact of the Competition Reforms on Business Development

Following the completion of the project and finalising of the report on the Impact of the Competition Reforms on Business Development in Lusaka, Zambia a dissemination/public symposium would be held on February 26, 2015.

COMPAD Project Research Sensitisation Phase

CUTS Accra, Ghana in the first quarter of the year 2015 will organise a sensitisation workshop, to share the research findings from data obtained in the field with all relevant stakeholders involved in the Competition and Advocacy (COMPAD) project for advocating for a functional competition regime in Ghana.

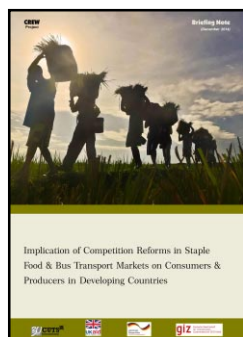
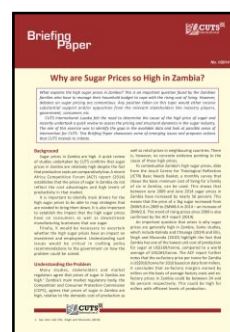
PUBLICATIONS

Briefing Paper

Why are Sugar Prices so High in Zambia?

A quick review of studies undertaken by CUTS Lusaka confirms that sugar prices in Zambia are relatively high despite the fact that production costs are comparatively low. A recent Africa Competition Forum (ACF) report (2014) establishes that the prices of sugar in Zambia do not reflect the cost advantages and high-levels of productivity in that market. Moreover, a need was felt to identify main drivers for high sugar prices to be able to map strategies that are needed to bring them down. It is also important to establish the impact that the high sugar prices have on consumers as well as downstream manufacturing businesses that use sugar. Conclusively, it would be necessary to ascertain whether the high sugar prices have an impact on investment and employment. Understanding such issues would be critical in crafting policy recommendations to the government on how the problem could be solved.

http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/pdf/Briefing_Paper-Why_are_Sugar_Prices_so_High_in_Zambia.pdf



Implication of Competition Reforms in Staple Food & Bus Transport Markets on Consumers & Producers in Developing Countries

CUTS International is implementing a project, called the CREW Project, in four countries Ghana, India, the Philippines and Zambia. The research phase (Phase I) of the project has produced interesting findings from the two project sectors (Staple Food and Bus Transport). Some of these findings have been documented in the Briefing Note. The project is being supported by DFID (UK) and BMZ (Germany) facilitated by GIZ (Germany).

[www.cuts-ccier.org/crew/pdf/CREW_Briefing_Note\(2014\).pdf](http://www.cuts-ccier.org/crew/pdf/CREW_Briefing_Note(2014).pdf)

Tradequity

A quarterly newsletter which covers news and analysis on trade and sustainable development issues relevant to the African countries. The October-December 2014 issue encompasses a cover story entitled 'Twenty Five Years of Industrialisation in Africa'. The newsletter carries news on Economics and Development, Trade, Consumer and Environment etc. Besides, it also carries a special feature on Regional Integration: A Pillar in the AfDB's Strategy.



http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/pdf/Tradequity14-Twenty_Five_Years_of_Industrialisation_in_Africa.pdf



African Publications Digest 2014

CUTS Africa (Lusaka, Nairobi and Accra) produces this documents for informing the relevant stakeholders its major publication in 2014

http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/pdf/Publication_Digest-2014_ARC.pdf

REFLECTIONS FROM MEDIA

Kisumu Citizen Report Card on Health Services

Kenya News Agency, October 17, 2014

Over seven percent of Kisumu County residents have confirmed having engaged in bribery to secure health services at public health facilities. This is according to a study focussing on consumer feedback on health service provision that was launched in July 2013 by a non-governmental organisation, CUTS Nairobi, Kenya under the project 'Empowering Marginalised Community Groups for Inclusive Governance' in Kenya's Health Service Delivery (EMACIGHES). CUTS Nairobi Programme Officer In-charge of Consumer Protection and Governance, Daniel Asher mentioned that a majority of respondents paid Shs. 100 for while 20 percent paid Shs. 500 as bribes.

<http://kenyanewsagency.go.ke/en/kisumu-citizen-report-card-on-health-services/>

Fuel Price Cut Minimal

Times of Zambia, 03 December, 2014

Local consumer rights groups have said the marginal decrease in fuel prices announced by the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) is negligible. But the Government has defended that the decision by ERB describing it as logical owing to the costs incurred in the procurement process of petroleum. ERB announced that fuel price reduction in the previous week following the plummeting crude oil prices on the international market.

The uniform pump prices per litre for petrol decreased to K10.38 from K10.63 per litre, diesel reduced to K9.73 from K10.01 per litre and kerosene was pegged at K7.21 from K7.48, per litre. CUTS International, Lusaka, Zambia Centre Coordinator Simon Ng'ona said that the decrease in the pump price of petroleum did not correspond to market forces locally and internationally.

<http://thezambian.com/news/2014/12/03/fuel-price-cut-minimal/>

CUTS for Synergies on Consumer Welfare

Times of Zambia, December 08, 2014

CUTS International, Lusaka, Zambia said that there is need for consumer-producer synergies for sustainable improvement in consumer welfare in the country. CUTS Board Member Yusuf Dodia said addressing anti-competitive practices in public procurement processes that impaired the envisaged outcomes of development was one way of promoting good governance of public resources.

Dodia said competition law was a panacea to addressing some of the public procurement challenges and, therefore, it was important that right resources were leveraged towards implementation of competition law. He said this at a competition and consumer protection commission (CCPC) meeting to commemorate world competition day in Lusaka. The CCPC also mentioned that the government procurement authorities should formulate strategies aiming at detecting anti-competitive practices and unusual schemes in the bidding processes.

http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/lusaka/media-CUTS_for_synergies_on_consumer_welfare.html

Contracts in Africa are Shrouded in Corruption

Ghana Web News, December 05, 2014

It is estimated that 70 percent of contracts in the public sector are shrouded in corruption, which inevitably leads to a rise in 20 to 30 percent of the total contract sum. Globally, about US\$400bn changes hands per annum through corruption in public procurement around the world.

Appiah Adomako, Executive Director, CUTS Accra, Ghana, made this known during the celebration of the 'World Competition Day', which is aimed at raising awareness about competition in awarding of contract. He noted that competition is a fundamental tenet of well-functioning markets, which encourage companies to provide consumers with the products and services that they want.

http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/accra/compad/Media-Contracts_in_Africa_are_shrouded_in_corruption.htm