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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: Research Officer

NATIONALITY: Ethiopian

LANGUAGES: English, Dutch, Amharic, Oromo

THEMATIC EXPERTISE: Private sector development, trade/investment, taxation, development finance

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERTISE: Sub-Saharan Africa (e.g. Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Benin, etc.), Latin America (e.g. Bolivia), East Asia (e.g. China)

OVERVIEW

I'm a researcher currently working for IDS within the 'Business, Markets and the State' research cluster. I also support the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) through the 'K4D programme' – i.e. in order to improve the impact of development policy and programming with the use of evidence. I have an interest in broad areas of development research, my main areas of expertise being – development finance, taxation and private sector development (e.g. employment, firm productivity, markets, etc.) in developing countries. Previously, I worked as an independent consultant (e.g. Overseas Development Institute (ODI)) and as a researcher for the Belgian Policy Research Group on Financing for Development (BeFinD) at the University of Namur. As an independent consultant, for instance, I assisted ODI and the Centre for Tax Analysis in Developing Countries (TAXDEV) of Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) in selecting partner countries for the TAXDEV II project. At BeFinD, I provided research-based policy support for the development ministry of Belgium – assisting policymakers both in Belgium and in partner Sub-Saharan African countries. Part of my role was to conduct research on the Value-Added Tax to facilitate reforms in Belgium's partner countries (mainly, in Africa). The objective was to improve Domestic Resource Mobilization in partner countries. Apart from conducting research and providing policy advice, I was also involved in the management of the BeFinD research group.

EDUCATION

2017 **PhD in Applied Economics**, University of Antwerp & University of Namur, (Joint doctorate) Belgium

2008 - 2009 **M.A. in Globalization and Development**, University of Antwerp, (Great Distinction), Belgium

2002 - 2006 **BA in Economics**, Bahir Dar University, (Great Distinction), Ethiopia

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

2019 – PRESENT **Research Officer**, Institute of Development Studies, UK
Researcher for the Business, Markets and the State research cluster and the Knowledge for Development (K4D) programme

2019 **Independent Consultant**, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), UK
I assisted ODI and Centre for Tax Analysis in Developing Countries (TAXDEV) in selecting partner countries; I identified and reviewed the literature for assessing potential partner countries against selection criteria; I helped to prepare country assessment reports on Liberia, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Nigeria.

2015 – 2019	Researcher (Post-doctoral 2017/19 & Doctoral 2015/17) , University of Namur, Belgium, I conducted research (e.g. tax and public financial management) at BeFinD, University of Namur; I provided policy support for the Belgian Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGD) and Belgian Development Agency (Enabel, formerly BTC).
2011 – 2015	PhD researcher , University of Antwerp, Belgium I carried out PhD research (Literature reviews; Collecting and analysing data; Preparing proposals; Preparing articles, reports, and presentations; Attending seminars)
2006 – 2011	Lecturer 2009/11 & Graduate Assistant 2006/08 , Jimma University, Ethiopia Teaching courses; Providing research training; advising student's research projects; Supervising Surveys; Preparing course materials; Attending/organizing seminars, etc.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications (Journal Articles & Book Chapters)

- Essers, D.; Megersa, K. and Sanfilippo, M.** (2019, preprint) 'The Productivity Gaps of Female-Owned Firms: Evidence from Ethiopian Census Data', *Economic Development and Cultural Change*
- Megersa, K. and Cassimon, D.** (2015) 'Public Debt, Economic Growth and Public Sector Management in Developing Countries: Is there a Link?', *Public Administration and Development* 35.5: 329–346
- Megersa, K. and Cassimon, D.** (2015) 'Assessing Indicators of Currency Crisis in Ethiopia: Signals Approach', *African Development Review* 27.3: 315-330
- Megersa, K.** (2015) 'The Laffer Curve and the Debt-Growth Link in Low-Income Sub-Saharan African Economies', *Journal of Economic Studies* 42.5: 878 – 892
- Megersa, K. and Houssa, R.** (2018) 'The Dynamics of Bond & Securities Markets in WAEMU', in E. Wamboye and P. Niyaronga (eds), *The Service Sector and Economic Development in Africa*, London and New York: Routledge
- Megersa, K. and Cassimon, D.** (2017) 'Debt Sustainability and Direction of Trade: What Does Africa's Shifting Engagement with BRIC and OECD Tells Us?', in E. Wamboye and E. Tiruneh (eds), *Foreign Capital Flows and Economic Development in Africa BRICS' versus OECD's Impact*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan

Working Papers (Selected)

- Godin, M.; Houssa, R. and Megersa, M.** (2018) 'The Performance of VAT in DGD-partner Countries: Case Study on Bolivia', *BeFinD Working Papers* 0116, Namur: University of Namur
- Houssa, R. and Megersa, M.** (2017) 'Institutional Quality, Economic Development and the Performance of VAT', *BeFinD Working Papers* 0115, Namur: University of Namur
- Houssa, R.; Megersa, M. and Nikiema, R.** (2017) 'The Sources of VAT Gaps in WAEMU: Case Studies on Benin and Burkina Faso', *BeFinD Working Papers* 0122, Namur: University of Namur

Reports (Selected)

- Megersa, K.** (2020) 'Tax Reforms After COVID-19 and Financial Crises', *K4D Helpdesk Report* 809, Brighton: IDS
- Megersa, K.** (2020) 'Subsidy Reforms: Lessons from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region', *K4D Helpdesk Report* 749, Brighton: IDS
- Megersa, K.** (2019) 'Review of Tax Incentives and their Impacts in Asia', *K4D Helpdesk Report* 665, Brighton: IDS
- Megersa, K.** (2019) 'Lessons Learned from Linking Social Protection to Tax Revenue', *K4D Helpdesk Report* 717, Brighton: IDS
- Megersa, K.** (2019) 'Cash Transfer Programmes in High Inflation Contexts', *K4D Helpdesk Report* 686, Brighton: IDS
- Megersa, K.** (2019) 'Consumer Pressure, Labour Standards and the Ready-Made Garment Sector', *K4D Helpdesk Report* 642, Brighton: IDS
- Megersa, K.** (2019) 'Designing and Managing Innovation Portfolios', *K4D Helpdesk Report* 662, Brighton: IDS
- Megersa, K.** (2019) 'Effectiveness of Aid for Trade Programmes Providing Market Information and Advice to Businesses', *K4D Helpdesk Report* 589, Brighton: IDS
- Megersa, K.** (2019) 'Structure of the Global Ready-Made Garment Sector', *K4D Helpdesk Report* 641, Brighton: IDS

In the Press (Selected)

- Essers, D. and Megersa, K.** (2019) 'Maximizing Finance for Development: Looking Beyond the Good Intentions', *Exchange to Change Alumni Magazine* 40: 8-11