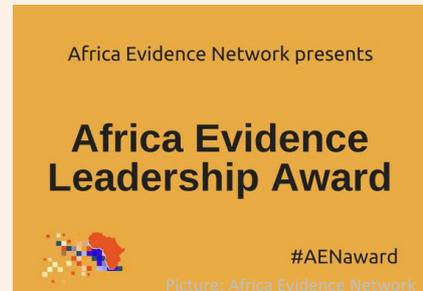


Africa Evidence Network

NEWSLETTER || February 2018

Launched: Africa Evidence Leadership Award

The Africa Evidence Network (AEN) **launched** the **Africa Evidence Leadership Award** on the 31 January 2018. The main aim of the Award is to showcase leaders and influential contributors in the field of evidence, as well as raise the status of Africa in evidence-informed decision-making discussions by recognising the impactful, insightful, effective, innovative work, and service contribution that supports and promotes evidence-informed decision-making in Africa. Those working in relevant roles along the evidence ecosystem are eligible to **apply** for the prize, which includes travel to, accommodation for, and registration for Evidence 2018 and one other leading evidence-informed decision-making event. AEN members will be voting for the award winner from a pool of shortlisted candidates from 16 April 2018. Full details on how to apply are available online.



Recognising leadership The new AEN award celebrates excellence in evidence-informed decision-making.

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Former Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf – the first democratically-elected female president in Africa – **has been awarded** the Mo Ibrahim prize for African leadership. The award recognises African leaders who were found to have governed well, improved the lives of the citizens of their country, and then stepped down as leaders. This is the first time in three years that the prize has been awarded.

Focus on simple, effective interventions that protect health-workers in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) from the dangers of infectious diseases, writes Clara Affun-Adegbulu in a recent **article** for **International Health Policies**. She emphasizes how many healthcare workers in LMICs endanger themselves daily in the pursuit of helping others.

Decolonization within South African science should include a focus on the non-European origins of knowledge and an acknowledgement of some disciplines' seedy histories, writes Linda Nordling in a recently published **article in Nature**. Nordling features black female scientists, part of the generation transforming science in Africa.

Young 1love is non-governmental organisation (NGO) aiming to provide young people across Africa with 'life-saving information'. In a **blog post** published by the **Global Innovation Fund**, the NGO reflects on the different results obtained from the same project adapted for two different contexts, providing useful insights into a tricky situation.

Evidence events

26 February: **Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative** by **Africa Check** on fact-checking, **webinar**.

27-28 February: **Aid and Development in Africa Summit**, Nairobi, Kenya.

22-23 March: **Ghana Education Evidence Summit**, Accra, Ghana.

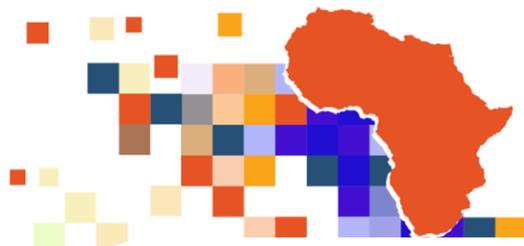
25-28 September: **Evidence 2018**, Pretoria, South Africa.

Announcements

- **Senior programme manager position** available with the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation
- Joanna Briggs Institute: Evidence-based Clinical Fellowship Program; **registration open**
- **Applications** for the Africa Evidence Network Reference Group open

Professor Willem Fourie shares with us the latest South African Sustainable Development Hub in this month's **blog**.

View all blog posts **online** and use the Network to share your view – submit your AEN blog **here**.



Has the World Bank been effective?

The *Data for Development* evaluation report has been released by the World Bank. In the context of shifting global partnerships for development data capacity, the World Bank is evaluating its role in the support and provision of data for development globally. High-level findings within the report include that the World Bank has effectively produced global data that has been influential across the planet. One of the four questions that guided the report was whether the World Bank has been effective in strengthening the capacity of countries to produce their own data. Where the World Bank has engaged in-depth on institutional reforms, the report observes improvements in data availability, quality, and timeliness are observable.



Strengthening capacity The World Bank *Data for Development* report shares how the World Bank has strengthened data production capacity in some places.

INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

The Campbell Collaboration shared an [address](#) by Howard White where he highlighted the importance of systematic reviews for measuring the effectiveness of interventions. White recognises the central role of randomised controlled trials, as one example, and points out the strength of systematic reviews in finding interventions that “work everywhere and those which never work anywhere”.

Increased collaboration between evidence producers and users – such as decision-makers and practitioners – necessitates getting working together right. Susan Dodsworth and Nic Cheeseman outline [five lessons for collaboration](#) that avoid common pitfalls, such as perpetuating the power imbalances in north-south partnerships. One suggestion is for researchers to maintain their independence.

In a recent [London School of Economics and Political Science Impact blog post](#), Philipp Lottholz and Karolina Kluczevska share the view from researchers’ and policy-makers’ perspectives respectively of working together. By becoming aware of the blind spots and nuances of interaction between researchers and policy-makers, the authors argue both will be able to move into more collaborative engagement, especially essential for early career researchers attempting to generate new knowledge.

Evidence from academia

[Abbey et al](#): ‘Pneumonia in Ghana—a need to raise the profile’

[Head et al](#): ‘Global funding trends for malaria research in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic analysis’

[Jull et al](#): ‘Community-based participatory research and integrated knowledge translation: advancing the co-creation of knowledge’

[Deaton & Cartwright](#): ‘Understanding and misunderstanding randomized controlled trials’

[Erasmus et al](#): ‘Reflections on per diems in international development projects: Barriers to and enablers of the project cycle’

The [Collaboration for Environmental Evidence \(CEE\)](#) has launched a new guideline for reporting in environmental systematic evidence syntheses: [RepOrting standards for Systematic Evidence Syntheses \(ROSES\)](#). The guideline exists as a checklist of information necessary for a CEE environmental evidence synthesis.