



Africa Evidence Network

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Africa's future depends on its scientists

The [Coalition for Research and Innovation \(CARI\)](#), led by the President of Mauritius, H.E. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, is an alliance of African science leaders and international funders who have joined forces to catalyse investment in research and innovation. CARI has been presenting a new vision for supporting science, technology, and innovation in Africa at the [World Economic Forum](#) annual meeting taking place in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland from 17 to 20 January 2017. According to CARI, Africa's future lies in the hands of its scientist. From urbanisation to agriculture, climate change to pandemics, Africa needs science, technology and innovation to secure a prosperous and sustainable future. CARI believes a dedicated fund for African scientists would promote collaboration across borders – essential in a continent where countries share similar challenges.



Image: REUTERS/Thierry Gouegnon

A new [blog](#) by [INASP](#) shares the experience of the Parliament of Uganda in using evidence in decision-making. This has been possible through parliament's Department of Research Services (DRS) whose duty it is to ensure that parliamentary decisions are backed with evidence. The DRS achieves this in a number of ways such as building capacity and ensuring quality of in-house research.

The University of Johannesburg-led programme to Building Capacity to Use Research Evidence (UJ-BCURE) has produced a short [film](#) on the mentorship programme between UJ-BCURE and South Africa's Department of Water and Sanitation. This film shares lessons learned in developing a draft national water stewardship policy and engaging in EIDM.

A [snapshot](#) of Twede Mbele (which means going forward together in Swahili) a multi-country programme aiming to strengthen National Evaluation Systems of African countries. It currently consists of government partners from three different countries (South Africa, Benin and Uganda), [CLEAR Anglophone Africa](#), and the [African Development Bank](#).

The latest [article](#) in [the Conversation](#) discusses how South Africa's notice to withdraw from the [International Criminal Court \(ICC\)](#) has raised questions about the ethics of its policy. Some critics respond to the notice saying it highlights inconsistencies and contradictions in what has been perceived as the country's ethical foreign policy.

Evidence events

[13-14 March: 11th Annual Africa Young Graduates and Scholars Conference in Gauteng, South Africa](#)

[27-31 March: 8th AfrEA International Conference 2017 in Kampala, Uganda](#)

Announcements

- Cochrane SA [appoints](#) a new Director, Prof Charles Shey Wiysonge
- [Call for abstracts](#) for the Global Evidence Summit 2017
- [Call for abstracts](#) for the 7th African Unity for Renaissance International Conference and Africa Day Expo

The latest [AEN blog](#) showcases a series of 25 maps on the evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) landscape in Africa. The EIDM landscape maps outline the key stakeholders in the evidence and policy landscape. Submit your AEN blog [here](#).

The world's eight billionaires own the same wealth as half of the world

The development charity [Oxfam](#) inequality report reveals that the world's eight richest billionaires control the same wealth between them as the poorest half of the globe's population. Not without [controversy](#), this report was published to coincide with a week-long [World Economic Forum \(WEF\)](#) where decision-makers and many of the super-rich gathered in Davos, Switzerland. Oxfam called for a new economic model to reverse inequality and social polarisation trend which threatened the risks to global economy in 2017 and could result in the rolling back of globalization. [Mark Goldring](#), chief executive of Oxfam Great Britain, said that while one in nine people on the planet will go to bed hungry, a small handful of billionaires have so much wealth they would need several lifetimes to spend it. The body that organises the WEF event added that the rising inequality was not an "iron law of capitalism", but a matter of making the right policy choices.



INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

The [Insight Conflict](#) organisation's latest [article](#) shares how community peace-building projects have helped to heal divides brought by the Ebola crisis. The Ebola epidemic in West Africa has been declared over by the [World Health Organisation](#). However, the crisis has had a big impact on community security as Ebola destroyed relationships between and within communities.

The [Better Evaluation blog](#) lists over 21 evaluation resources that are freely available online. These are a wide range of tools, guides, examples and other resources. Some of the resources include: synthesis data from one or more evaluations; examples of using big data in evaluation; understanding causes of outcomes and impacts and key evaluation questions.

The [LSE Impact Blog](#) by Deborah Lupton provides 15 steps to revising journal articles for authors. The peer-review process involved in publishing an academic journal entails the critique and revision of a manuscript. Lupton argues that addressing all reviewer comments can be seen as a way to make your work the best it can be. She suggests being thankful for the work performed on your behalf by the reviewers and editors.

Evidence from academia

[Leardini et al](#): 'When the law shapes nonprofit boards: The key role of local stakeholders'

[Marasini and Mugenyi](#): 'Overcoming the limits of evidence on effective multisectoral nutrition policy'

[Pischke and Stefanski](#): 'Drought management policies – from global collaboration to national action'

[Teplitskiy et al](#): 'Amplifying the impact of open access: Wikipedia and the diffusion of science'

[Advancing the right to health: the vital role of law](#) is a new report published by the [World Health Organisation](#) which offers global resources on using the law to improve health. Soda tax in Mexico and salt limit in South Africa are just some of the hundreds of examples of the vital role that law plays in safeguarding and promoting good health around the world. The report features case studies and examples of legislation from a variety of countries to illustrate effective law reform practices.