

Evidence for policy: policy-making using science

In December 2018 the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission arranged an **Evidence-Informed Policy-Making (EIPM) seminar** in Pretoria in partnership with South Africa's **Department of Science and Technology**, amongst others. Over 100 African participants were trained to use evidence for policy-making through the lens of the food-water-energy nexus. South Africa's **Minister for Science & Technology, Hon Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane**, delivered an opening address and urged funders in Africa to avoid duplication through coordination of research efforts. AEN members (**Harsha, Carina, and Laurenz**) co-facilitated a master class on evidence mapping and responsive /rapid evidence synthesis.



Three days of developing skills in using evidence to plan and develop policy situations in Pretoria
Delegates from across Africa advancing the evidence-informed policy-making (EIPM) agenda.

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The **Africa Evidence Network** is currently updating their **online database** of available resources, tools, guides and opportunities for capacity-building in evidence-informed decision-making in Africa. Kindly send the resources to Precious Motha on ace@uj.ac.za by end of February 2019. In sending us this information, you are agreeing that we can share the information within our **online database**.

Researchers with the **African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)**, Emma Heneine and Claire Jensen highlight the need for an **urgent, efficient policy action to improve living conditions in prisons across the country**. Human rights should be endorsed for everyone to curb the issue of increased tuberculosis (TB) infections in the Malawi prisons.

Citizen evidence is essential for improving policy decisions, as we heard at **Evidence 2018 conference**, though this is often neglected. **Emily Hayter** writes to encourage researchers, policy-makers and evaluators to take up citizen engagement and use of evidence for public policy-making.

Connecting the dots: Measuring and increasing data use for better governance is one of five in a **webinar series** organised by Open Data Watch in collaboration with **Cepei** and **PARIS21**. The aim of the series is to create an opportunity for development, data and policy experts and practitioners to share and deliberate on the most recent changes in the field of development data.

Evidence events

28-29 January: **West Africa Capacity-building and Impact Evaluation (WACIE)**, Cotonou, Benin.

31 January: **Nkafu Policy Institute: "Why Think Tanks Matter?"**, Yaoundé, Cameroon.

11-15 March: **9th AfrEA Conference**, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

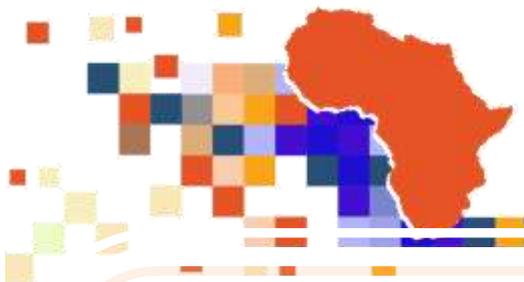
25-26 March: **African Cochrane Indaba 2019**, Cape Town, South Africa.

Announcements

- **2019 applications for Envision are open!**
- **Applications for the 2019-2020 Policy Communication Fellows Program are open.**
- **Call for proposals for the prestigious African Research Leader awards.**
- **Africa's Voices Foundation is hiring research assistants.**

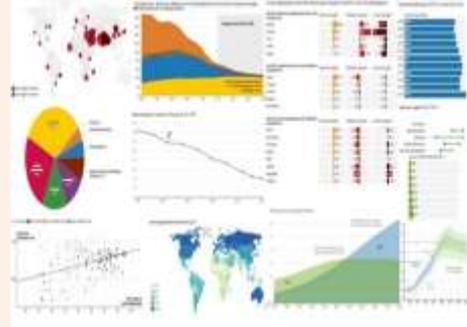
On the **blog** now: AEN member Kirchuffs Atengble from PACKS Africa writes about the use of VakaYiko EIPM Toolkit in the Ethiopian Ministry of Health workshop.

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



World Bank review of 2018

A visual representation of the challenges that the world is facing, as well as proposed solutions thereof, are provided in the form of [charts by World Bank in a blog](#) by [Donna Barne](#) and [Divyanshi Wadhwa](#). At the end of 2018, extreme poverty worldwide was at its lowest in recorded history, although it was expected to increase in Sub-Saharan Africa. A large number of people across the world are now refugees as they have been forced to move from their countries. It is projected that by 2050, there will be twice as many people living in cities than in rural areas. Electricity access has been increasing in most developing countries and since 2011 a significant number of people have access to financial services.



Charts to represent a review of 2018:
The problems that the world is facing and the actions required to produce a more comprehensive, viable world: Photo credit: World Bank

INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

[Howard White](#), the founding director of the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), reflects on 3ie's achievements for the past 10 years, saying that it has contributed to the evidence architecture and research transparency. The [current executive director, Emmanuel Jimenez](#) mentions the importance of making evidence available to policy-makers, programme implementers and beneficiaries.

In his blog, [Brian Levy](#) emphasises the [importance of knowing and understanding how school governance systems work](#) to improve learning outcomes. One way in which governance shapes learning outcomes is technical efficiency through which inputs are utilised. It is essential to know that there is no one-size fits all, hence a need to always consider context.

John Young gives a [reflection on the evidence-informed policy work in the UK and how to implement policies that work](#). Evidence use in the UK remains a major challenge despite the numerous efforts to promote it. The UK should learn from initiatives by developing countries such as the establishment of the [Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in South Africa](#), which is an approach to embed evidence use in policy processes.

Evidence from academia

[Collins et al](#): 'Engaging environmental policy-makers with systematic reviews: challenges, solutions and lessons learned'

[Fisher et al](#): 'Barriers and enablers to adolescent self-consent for vaccination: A mixed-methods evidence synthesis'

[Gimaiyo et al](#): 'Can child-focused sanitation and nutrition programming improve health practices and outcomes? Evidence from a randomised controlled trial in Kitui County, Kenya'

[Fanny Hattery](#) and [Kaori Oshima](#) in a [World Bank blog](#) point out that government partners need to have a good understanding on the topic of "citizen engagement" so as to effectively engage with citizens. Evidence from a workshop held in Guinea show that citizen engagement promotes participation and produces local revenue.