



INASP shares learning to improve EIDM

Working in Sierra Leone and the Puntland region of Somalia, the [International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications](#) (INASP) shares the lessons they have learnt for understanding and supporting research systems in what they describe as 'harder to reach' places. There are four lessons learnt, including understanding the importance of context, drawing on partnerships and local champions, remaining adaptable and using iterative processes, and finally using technology to innovatively fight regional challenges that would otherwise impede success. The network plans to take these lessons forward in future work.



Core lesson A busy street in Sierra Leone – one of the 'harder to reach places' – drives home one of the important messages learned by INASP: context matters for research systems.

The [International Growth Centre](#) has released the [second part of their mini-documentary series](#) on impact in evidence-based policy. The case study from Ghana argues that collaboration is key to moving evidence-based policy from catch-phrase to reality. The case study that researchers need to have relationships with policy-makers to really have their work make a difference in the world.

In an [article](#) recently published in [The Conversation Africa](#), Africa Evidence Network chairperson Professor Ruth Stewart discusses the role of the Africa Evidence Leadership Award in supporting evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) in Africa. The article argues that such awards encourage high standards in EIDM and showcase the EIDM work happening in Africa.

[Twende Mbele](#) facilitated an [Evidence Based Policy Making and Implementation course](#) in Uganda in May which was part of their African Partnership Programme. The course was aimed at strategic leaders and top management from within the public service. Plans are afoot to translate the course into French to run it in Benin in the second half of 2018.

In an [article](#) for the Wilson Center, [African Institute for Development Policy](#) communications officer Diana Warira argues about the importance of fighting corruption to effectively address development issues within Africa. Evidence from the demographic dividend research shows that failing to invest in good governance curtails all other development success.

Evidence events

23 July: [Ghana Education Evidence Summit](#), Accra, Ghana.

24-27 July: [Evidence to Action conference](#), Nairobi, Kenya.

25-28 September: [EVIDENCE 2018](#), Pretoria, South Africa.

4-6 October: [Innovating Education in Africa Expo](#), Dakar, Senegal.

Announcements

- Research Fellow [vacancy](#) at University of Southampton.
- The Africa Centre for Evidence welcomes [two interns](#) from the McMaster Health Forum in Canada.
- Vacancy as a [data scientist](#) at DataSF in San Francisco, USA.

In this month's [blog post](#), the [Johannesburg centre of the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence](#) introduces an online database of people working on environmental evidence they are putting together. View all blog posts [online](#) and submit your AEN blog [here](#).

Shared decision-making is about values and conversations

Last month, the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\)](#) based in the United Kingdom welcomed [diverse delegates](#) to its fifth collaborative on shared decision-making. The patient representatives, medical practitioners, academics and policy-makers were united by a single, long-standing goal: how to promote and facilitate shared decision-making in everyday healthcare. Two important themes were raised at the event. The first theme centered on the importance of the values shared by all present and the second theme was the importance of shifting from consulting to having conversations about healthcare. The difficulty of assessing different values was also discussed, specifically in relation to patients as their values often vary.



Sharing decisions The fifth NICE collaborative stressed the necessity of conversations and values between medical practitioners and patients.
Picture: Dominic Chavez/World Bank

INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

The [Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2018](#) was published this month. One key finding of the report is that localisation of humanitarian assistance is not occurring. Local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) received only 0.4% of international humanitarian assistance in 2017, with international NGOs having received a total of 94% of the entire amount earmarked for humanitarian assistance for NGOs.

Africa Evidence Network member, Dr Neal Haddaway, was involved in organizing the inaugural [Evidence Synthesis Hackathon](#) which took place at [Stockholm Environment Institute](#) in Sweden in April. The event produced a total of 11 [open access tools](#) to make the production of evidence syntheses more efficient and user-friendly. Tools such as these are invaluable as evidence syntheses are used in decision-making from healthcare to the environment.

This month, the [World Inequality Report 2018](#) was launched at a London event that featured Duncan Green of Oxfam as discussant. In a [post on his blog](#), Green discusses three findings and two gaps within the report. One comment he makes is how the policies proposed within the report to address inequality have not been interrogated for their political feasibility. Green argues that equal academic effort needs to go into designing more feasible political solutions.

Evidence from academia

[Dahler-Larsen](#): 'Making citations of publications in languages other than English visible: On the feasibility of a PLOTE-index'.

[Oliver et al](#): 'Producing policy relevant systematic reviews: navigating the policy-research interface'.

[Synnot et al](#): 'The evolution of Cochrane evidence summaries in health communication and participation: seeking and responding to stakeholder feedback'.

The Sweden-based [Bibsam Consortium](#) – responsible for negotiating licenses for electronic journals on behalf of Swedish universities and others – [has decided to not renew its license with Elsevier](#). Astrid Söderbergh Widding, Chairman of the consortium, argues that "scholarly communication must change" to reduce the "rapid increase of costs for both reading and publishing" evidence.