

Partner in focus: PAN:Children

PAN:Children is a partnership between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) to establish and maintain a policy-oriented knowledge-hub on children's rights and equity in South Africa. The knowledge-hub seeks to provide high-quality, timely information to inform policy and decision-making in relation to children. Importantly, it strengthens the dialogue between the generators and users of child-related evidence, building important networks between researchers and policy-makers. PAN:Children is primarily targeted at South African policy makers and government officials involved in planning, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes relating to children, as well as academics working on issues/ generating evidence related to child rights and equity. Different resources such as case studies, topical guides, policy briefs, literature reviews, data sets and more can all be found on the portal at <http://children.pan.org.za>. For regular updates see Facebook / twitter (@children_pan)



The AEN team has produced **two new papers** on the value of research synthesis in international development. Both papers provide a rationale for the use of research synthesis to improve programme and policy effectiveness in international development. Using the slogan of 'Changing the world one systematic review at a time', they call for more international development reviews to be conducted.

The 2nd **Uganda Evaluation Week** took place in Kampala, 21-23 May. The overall theme of the 2014 Evaluation Week was "Building Evaluation Capacity, Culture and Practices in Uganda". The focus of this year's evaluation week was, among other, on how an improved evaluative culture and practices could lead to the use of empirical evidence to inform management processes in Uganda.

UJ-BCURE attended the Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development in South Africa (**PSPPD II**) strategy and learning facility inception workshop. Themed 'Building the evidence-base and its use in policy-making to address poverty and inequality', the event presented an opportunity to network for key stakeholders working in evidence-informed decision-making.

How does the South African Child Support Grant (CSG) impact lone mothers' dignity? Prof Michael Noble and Dr. Gemma Wright from Oxford University and the Southern African Social Policy Research Institute (SASPRI) and their team tried to answer this question. The study was funded by DFID and the ESRC. For a detailed discussion of the findings follow the [link](#).

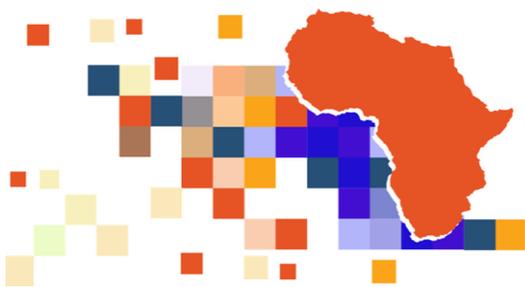
Upcoming events

1-5 September: Asian Development Bank (ADB) and 3ie will be hosting an international impact evaluation conference in Manila, Philippines

21-26 September: 22nd Cochrane Colloquium in Hyderabad, India

Announcements

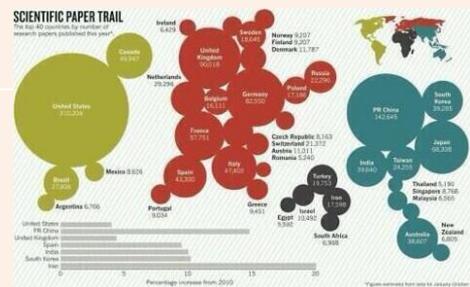
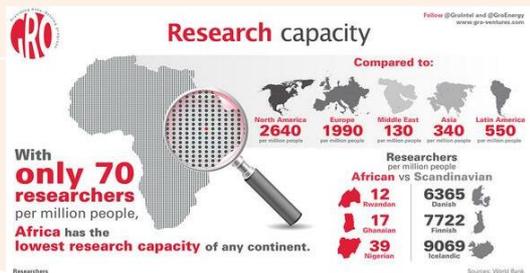
- The new Africa Evidence Network site is online! Have a look at the latest initiatives and sign up as a member! <http://africaevidencenetwork.org>
- Call for applications: 6th AuthorAID online course in research writing.
- The AEN team in Johannesburg conducted a systematic review of the effectiveness of smallholder farming interventions in Africa. The review is currently undergoing peer-review by the Campbell Collaboration.



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Convergence in scientific publishing?

Two new interesting [info graphics](#) shed light on the state of research production in the Global South. While countries such as China, Brazil and India seem to catch up in terms of scientific publishing, this development appears to have not taken-off in Africa yet. South Africa and Egypt present the only featured African countries with a research output comparable to New Zealand. Furthermore, Africa has the lowest research capacity with only 70 researchers per million people compared to 550 in Latin America or 340 in Asia.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A new [Giving Evidence report](#) assesses what education systems in less developed countries can learn from evidence-based medicine. It finds that encouraging evidence-based practice has a role to play in improving education systems, and that we can learn valuable lessons from healthcare on how to institutionalise evidence-based practice in education.

A World Bank research report finds that few people actually read World Bank reports.

While this report clearly received a fair amount of attention, analysing the Bank's website traffic data revealed that nearly one-third of their PDF reports have never been downloaded, not even once.

[Why is there no equivalent to NICE in development?](#) asks Owen Barder in his talk on 'Evidence & Scale'. Making the case for the production of rigorous evidence of what works in development, he points out that in international development there are no institutional mechanisms in place, which would ensure that this knowledge reaches and benefits practitioners.

[3ie announces a challenge for the impact evaluation community!](#) Having launched its newly revamped Impact Evaluation Repository, 3ie now wants to know from the evidence community if they have missed something? Stand a chance to win Amazon vouchers if you can find an impact evaluation they have not recorded!

Evidence from academia

New UCT research [paper](#):
'Randomised trials for policy: a review of the external validity of treatment effects'

New journal [article](#) (AEN member):
'Microbiological investigation for tuberculosis among HIV-infected children in Soweto, South Africa'

New [journal article](#):
'Towards a better understanding of the nomenclature used in information-packaging efforts to support evidence-informed policymaking in low- and middle-income countries'

[Call for Special Issue](#): Evaluation Review is asking for paper submissions to feature in a special issue on 'Systematic reviews

In our next newsletter: *Launch of the new AEN website + Information on the Centre for Social Development in Africa's newly launched RCT on how to improve youth unemployment in South Africa!*