

Programme Schedule by Day

(as on 20 September 2018)

TUESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2018 (PRE-CONGRESS DAY)

07h00 - 17h00	Registration			
09h00 – 10h30	Crystal Room	Onyx Room	Amber I Room	Amethyst Room
	1A Part 1: Evidence Value Chain: Showcasing the dimensions of evidence from projects undertaken by the Research Use and Impact Assessment (RIA) Unit of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)	2A Strengthening evidence use in Uganda: what's working and what's next (3ie)	3A Part 1: Citizen Evidence and Evidence-informed Policy-Making: Whose Knowledge Counts? (IDRC)	4A Workshop: Introduction to Evidence synthesis and systematic reviews (Prof. Sandy Oliver, EPPI)
10h30 - 11h00	Networking Break			
11h00 – 12h30	Crystal Room	Onyx Room	Amber I Room	Amethyst Room
	1B Part 2: Evidence Value Chain: Showcasing the dimensions of evidence from projects undertaken by the Research Use and Impact Assessment (RIA) Unit of the Human Sciences Research Council	2B Invisibility and evidence: Time's up for evidence that doesn't consider gendered drivers of inequality (3ie)	3B Part 2: Citizen Evidence and Evidence-informed Policy-Making: Whose Knowledge Counts?	4B Workshop: How Can Research Organizations More Effectively Transfer Research Knowledge to Decision Makers? - Workshop on Finding and Using Research Evidence (Prof. John Lavis, McMaster University)
12h30 - 13h30	Networking Break			
13h30 – 15h00	Crystal Room	Onyx Room	Amber I Room	Amethyst Room
	1C Measuring evidence use: the value of contribution tracing (3ie)	2C GESI Network needs assessment (Prof. Sandy Oliver, EPPI Centre)	3C Part 3: Citizen Evidence and Evidence-informed Policy-Making: Whose Knowledge Counts?	4C Workshop: Networking between Francophone and Anglophone Africa: bridging a post-colonial divide (Deo-Gracias Houndolo, Evaluation Specialist, 3ie, WACIE secretariat)
15h00 - 15h30	Networking Break			
15h30 – 17h00	Crystal Room	Onyx Room	Amber I Room	Amethyst Room
	1D Exploring synergies between evidence maps and rapid response services to support evidence-informed policy-making: towards collaboration and shared learning (UJ/DPME)	2D A peer learning network for government policymakers to advance evidence use in Africa: an emerging strategy (Results for All)	3D Capacity development to use evidence in decision-making: working toward partnerships and building space to use approaches that work (Prof. Ruth Stewart, Director, Africa Centre for Evidence)	4D Workshop: Introduction to EIDM (Tamara Kreda, Cochrane South Africa)
Close of Day				
17h00 – 17h30	Buses depart for City Lodge Lynnwood Bridge and Casa Toscana			





WEDNESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2018

07h00 - 17h00	Registration
09h00 – 09h30	Orientation session for digital interviews
09h30 - 10h30 <i>The Deck</i>	Meet your hosts Reception on the Deck

10h30 - 11h00 Refreshments / Meet & Greet

11h00 - 12h30
Diamond Auditorium **Opening Plenary Session**
Session Chair: **Dr Rhona Mijumbi-Deve** (Makerere University, Uganda), Co-chairperson of EVIDENCE 2018

Opening & Welcome

Prof. Ruth Stewart

Chairperson of the Africa Evidence Network, South Africa

Keynote: Evidence and 21st century Democracy:
Does the evidence still “speak for itself” or does it
need advocates?

Mr Mark Heywood

Executive Director, SECTION 27, South Africa

Objectives of EVIDENCE 2018

Dr Rhona Mijumbi-Deve

Co-chairperson of EVIDENCE 2018

Charting the Future for Evidence-Informed
Policymaking in Africa, Building on What’s Come
Before

Ms Sarah Lucas

William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, United States of America

Mr Diakalia Sanogo

International Development Research Centre, Dakar

Discussion/Q&A Session

Dr Rhona Mijumbi-Deve

Co-chairperson of EVIDENCE 2018

12h30 - 13h30 Lunch on the Deck

13h30 - 15h00
Diamond Auditorium **Cross-Governmental Panel Discussion: Sharing Institutional Insights into Evidence Informed Policy-Making Approaches in Africa**

Panel Chair: **Mr Diakalia Sanogo**, International Development Research Centre, Dakar

Panellists: **Mr Herbert Akampwere**, Northern Uganda Social Action Fund - Office of the Premier, Uganda
Ms Matodzi Amisi, CLEAR AA, South Africa
Mr Abdoulaye Gounou, BEPPAAG, Benin
Mr Timothy Lubanga, Acting Commissioner, Office of the Prime Minister

15h00 – 15h30 Networking and refreshment break

15h30 – 17h00
Diamond Auditorium Plenary Session 1
Session Chair: **Prof. Ruth Stewart**, Chairperson of the Africa Evidence Network

What does the evidence really tell us; learnings from
seven years of programming climate work in Africa

Dr Shehnaaz Moosa

South South North, South Africa

The importance of evidence use in good governance
in Africa: The case of the parliament of Ghana.

Dr Abraham Zackaria

Parliament of Ghana

Communicable Disease

Ms Shingai Machingaidze

*European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership
(EDCTP), South Africa*

The burden of proof: An example of using large-scale
assessment data to inform policy

Dr Surette van Staden

*Centre for Evaluation and Assessment, University of Pretoria,
South Africa*

17h15 – 18h30 Welcome Reception at the CSIR (The Deck)

18h30 – 20h00 Buses depart for City Lodge Lynnwood Bridge



THURSDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

07h00 - 17h00	Registration							
09h00 - 10h00	Diamond Auditorium	EVIDENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE <i>(Session Chair: Sibonelo Mbanjwa)</i>	Ruby Auditorium	THE ROLE OF MONITORING & EVALUATION IN EIDM <i>(Session Chair: Adeline Sibanda)</i>	Emerald Auditorium	ORAL POSTER PRESENTATIONS		
		Using Evidence to Institutionalise and Scale Up Sustainable - Multi-Sectoral Climate Change Interventions at Central and Local Government Level – What worked well in Uganda Dr Julian Bagyendera		OVC Social safety net cash transfer project in Eswatini: lessons learned Mr Thabo Hlophe		1A 09h00-09h10 Dr Bola Akanji	2A 09h00-09h10 Prof. Sudhakar Morankar	3A 09h00-09h10 Mr Rigobert Pambe
		Supporting organisational change for improved use of evidence at the Environmental Protection Agency in Ghana Ms Emily Hayter and Mr Samuel Quaye		Engaging with decision makers to use evidence- based programming to improve quality education Ms Jennifer Opore-Kumi		1B 09h20-09h30 Mr Akumbu Bubuh	2B 09h20-09h30 Ms Violet Murunga	3B 09h20-09h30 Dr Aloysius Ssenyonjo
		Catching soap in the bath – meaning making with and for climate change in complex settings Prof. Coleen Vogel		Government M&E Units: The Underdogs of Evidence-Informed Policy and Programme Ms Matodzi Amisi		1C 09h40-09h50 Prof. Faustin Chenge	2C 09h40-09h50 Mr John Njovu	3C 09h40-09h50 Ms Diana Warira
		Discussions / Question & Answer Session		Six Years of South Africa's National Evaluation System - Findings from an Evaluation of the System Dr Ian Goldman		1D 10h00-10h10 Dr Yvonne Erasmus	No session	No session
				Capacity building for conducting locally based impact evaluations in Africa Prof. Maria-Laura Alzua		Discussions / Question & Answer Session		
10h30 - 11h00	Networking and refreshment break							
11h00 - 12h30	Diamond Auditorium	STRENGTHENING THE SUPPLY SIDE OF EIDM <i>(Session Chair: Beryl Leach)</i>	Ruby Auditorium	EVIDENCE IN HEALTHCARE AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES <i>(Session Chair: Dr Ekwaro Obuku)</i>	Emerald Auditorium	ECOSYSTEM/LANDSCAPE MAPS		
		Strengthening Capacity of Schools of Public Health in Policy Analysis and Influence for Health Improvements in Global South: Experience from SPEED Partnership, Makerere University Uganda Dr Aloysius Ssenyonjo		A Cross-country Analysis of Map Utilisation in Strategic National Malaria Documents Intended for Programme Financing and Design Mr Nicholas Dellasanta		11h00-11h10 Dr Julian Bagyendera	11h00-11h10 Ms Rachel Emaasit	11h00-11h10 Mr Samuel Quaye
		University Curricula in EIDM: Integrating Best Practice, Innovation and Experience for Effective Teaching and Learning Dr Nasreen Jessani		Engaging Health Systems with Evidence from Existing Networks for the Treatment of Uncomplicated Malaria in Children Less Than Five Years in Cameroon Mr Emmanuel Kamga		11h20-11h30 Dr Teferi Hailemichael Hassen	11h20-11h30 Mr Thabo Hlophe	11h20-11h30 Mr Emmanuel Kamga
		Knowledge Translation Capacity, Practice and Support Among Researchers in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Structured Review of the Published Literature Ms Violet Murunga		Understanding HIV Research in Sub-Saharan Africa: Analysis of 300 HIV studies from the Impact Evaluation Repository (IER) Mr Jorge Miranda Montano		11h40-11h50 Ms Aimtonga Amini	11h40-11h50 Prof. Sudhakar Morankar	11h40-11h50 Dr Chukwudi Nnaji
		Taking Stock of Systematic Reviews in International Development: A Study of Methodological Quality, Policy Relevance and Usefulness Mrs Birte Snilstveit		Contribution of a Network of Parliamentary Committees of Health to the Ecosystem of Evidence Use in African Parliaments Dr Rose Oranje		12h00-12h10 Dr Ekwaro Obuku	12h00-12h10 Dr Olabisi Oduwale	12h00-12h10 Ms Jenna Patterson



		Discussions / Question & Answer Session		Promoting Equity and Access and Quality Healthcare in Africa by Translating Available Evidence into French Mr Rigobert Pambe		12h20-12h30 Mr Alioune Seydi	12h20-12h30 Ms Diana Warira	12h20-12h30 Prof. Jesse Uneke
		Discussions / Question & Answer Session						
12h30 - 13h30	Lunch							
13h30 - 15h00	Diamond	EVIDENCE IN PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE <i>(Session Chair: Hon. Olfa Cherif)</i>	Ruby	EVIDENCE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION <i>(Session Chair: Josephine Watara)</i>	Emerald	EVIDENCE AND FUNDERS <i>(Session Chair: Norma Altschuler)</i>		
		Exploring the Motivation of Using Research Evidence in Policy-Making by Zimbabwean Policy-Makers Mr Ronald Munatsi		Professional Learning Communities: A Cross-country Comparative Analysis Mrs Fernanda Soares		What About Evidence? Germany's Development Cooperation on Global Health Reconsidered Dr Paul Marschall		
		Ecosystem of Evidence in the Parliaments of Kenya, Malawi and Uganda Dr Rose Oronje		Teaching at the Right Level: A Case Study in Moving from Evidence to Action Ms Laura Poswell		Using Knowledge Brokerage to Strengthen African Voices in Global Decision-Making on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Ms Danielle Doughman		
		Increasing the use of Evidence in cabinet decision-making Dr Mark Johnston		Evidence Mapping as a Tool to Inform Policies in Early Grade Mathematics Mr Zafeer Ravat		The Extent to which Environment Project Funder's Decision are informed by Evidence Ms Cecilia Njenga		
		Utafiti Sera (Research-Policy): Novel and Innovative Approach to Evidence-Informed Policy Actions Dr Martin Atela		What Can Global Education and Global Health Learn From Each Other to Support the Use of Evidence? Dr Laurenz Langer		Entry points for evidence in AfDB Group decision-making Ms Karen Rot-Munstermann		
		Implementing Initiatives for Improving Health System Outcomes in Decentralised LMICs: A Nigerian Case Study Dr Ejemai Eboime		Discussions / Question & Answer Session		Discussions / Question & Answer Session		
		Discussions / Question & Answer Session				Discussions / Question & Answer Session		
15h00 - 15h30	Networking and refreshment break							
15h30 - 17h00	Diamond	TIMELY AND RESPONSIVE EVIDENCE: RAPID EVIDENCE SERVICES AND LIVING REVIEWS <i>(Session Chair: Tamara Kreda)</i>	Ruby	EVIDENCE AND CITIZENS <i>(Session Chair: Emily Hayter)</i>	Emerald	MECHANISMS AND NETWORKS IN EIDM <i>(Session Chair: Siziwe Ngcwabe)</i>		
		Setting Up a Rapid Evidence Synthesis Service in the Western Cape, South Africa Ms Hlengiwe Moloji		Publicising Debates in Sierra Leone Ms Laura Poswell		How do mentorship programmes increase the use of evidence in decision-making in the South African government context? A literature review for a mentorship framework Mrs Sunet Jordaan		
		Co-producing a Responsive Evidence Synthesis Service in South Africa With and For Environmental Decision-Makers Ms Natalie Tannous		The Role and Position of Civil Society Organisations in the Policy-Making Cycle: The South African Case Ms Masego Tabane		Strengthening intersectoral collaboration in production and use of evidence to prevent violence against women and children: lessons from the Dialogue Forum Dr Chandré Gould		
		How the Worlds of Policy and Research Interact to Produce Evidence for Public Policy Decisions Prof. Sandy Oliver		Citizen knowledge in turbulent times – speaking truth to power? Dr Peter Taylor		A Global Peer Learning Network to Accelerate Evidence Use in Government: Join the Conversation! Mr Ari Gandolfo		
		Efficient, Timely and Living Systematic Reviews: Opportunities in International Development Mrs Birte Snilstveit		Fact-checking organisations: Evidence brokers between scientists and citizens Ms Anim van Wyk		The art and science of using evidence in Africa: developing networks and identifying mechanisms Dr Laurenz Langer		
		Discussions / Question & Answer Session		Discussions / Question & Answer Session		Discussions / Question & Answer Session		



17h15 – 18h30

Buses depart for City Lodge Lynnwood Bridge



FRIDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2018

07h00 - 13h00

Registration

09h00 – 10h30

Diamond Auditorium

Plenary Session 2 – Panel Discussion on Evidence 2018 key strands

Session Chair: Dr Yvonne Erasmus, Africa Centre for Evidence (ACE) & University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Quality Education

Ms Danielle Mason

Education Endowment Foundation, United Kingdom

Communicable Disease

Dr Patrick Okwen

Centre for Development of Best Practice in Health, Cameroon

Climate Resilience

Mr Sibonelo Mbanjwa

Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa

Good Governance

Dr Rose Oronje

African Institute for Development Policy, Kenya

10h30 – 11h00

Networking and refreshment break

11h00 – 12h45

Diamond Auditorium

Plenary Session

Session Chair: Dr Shanil Haricharan, Co-chairperson of EVIDENCE 2018

Exciting AEN work

Ms Siziwe Ngcwabe

Africa Evidence Network, South Africa

Evidence use among members of Parliament: A case study of Malawi Parliament

Ms Velia Manyonga

Parliament of Malawi, Malawi

The Next Five-Year Agenda for Supporting Evidence-Informed Decision-making? Building Bridges, Adapting Innovations and Learning across Issues and Contexts

Prof. John Lavis

McMaster University, Canada

Rapporteur session wrap up and way forward

Dr Shanil Haricharan

Co-chairperson of EVIDENCE 2018

12h45 – 14h00

Lunch – Farewell Barbeque (Braai), CSIR Deck

13h30 – 15h00

Buses depart for City Lodge Lynnwood Bridge / Airport shuttles





Satellite Sessions

25 September 2018

Session 1A & 1B

Evidence Value Chain: Showcasing the dimensions of evidence from projects undertaken by the Research Use and Impact Assessment (RIA) Unit of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

Objectives

The objectives of this session are to:

1. showcase projects undertaken by the Research Use and Impact Assessment (RIA) Unit at HSRC,
2. establish collaboration with researchers and institutions that have similar interests to RIA's.

Description

The Research Use and Impact Assessment (RIA) Unit of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) operates at the research-policy nexus for the purpose of contributing towards effective policy formulation, implementation and evaluation.

The 'human and social dynamics in development' grand challenge identified in the Ten-Year Innovation Plan (DST, 2008) underscores the value of using social science and humanities' research evidence in government policy-making. To get a better understanding of the use of evidence in policy-making, RIA investigated through projects such as:

- Evaluation of the impact of the South African National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (SANHANES);
- Policy Implementation Barometer: methodology and preparations in Uganda

Cognisant of the fact that effective policy implementation entails effective communication of policy decisions, RIA held a series of seminars on innovation for inclusive development (IID). While the seminars had varying focus areas, they all sought to enhance evidence supply and demand by sharing research findings with the stakeholders and establishing research gaps from the input made by the stakeholders. The stakeholders included policy makers, academics, researchers, professionals, key IID stakeholder organisations, funders, innovation at grassroots practitioners and industry practitioners.

One of RIA's projects that investigated the dynamics of communication particularly with respect to policy implementation is titled 'Communication sharing practices and needs of people living with HIV: A case of Nkangala in Mpumalanga and Ekurhuleni in Gauteng'. The project followed the establishment of an adherence communication campaign that was developed by Communication Impact (CCI), an NGO that uses evidence-based communication approach to improve the health and wellbeing of South Africans. The project was a baseline study and needs assessment that investigated adherence to HIV treatment, Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) testing platform, and User Experience (UX) Testing of HIV messaging.

One mechanism for ascertaining evidence supply and demand is through RIA's knowledge brokering strategy. This strategy depicts ten knowledge brokering elements that are discussed by van Kammen, de Savingny and Sewankambo (2006, 609), which are fulfilled by different units and projects in RIA. These elements are about:

- a) Organising and managing joint forums for policy makers and researchers
- b) Building relationships of trust
- c) Setting agendas and common goals
- d) Signalling mutual opportunities
- e) Clarifying information needs
- f) Commissioning syntheses of research of high policy relevance
- g) Packaging research syntheses and facilitating access to evidence
- h) Strengthening capacity for knowledge translation
- i) Communicating and sharing advice
- j) Monitoring impact on the know-do gap

RIA's mechanisms for the evidence value chain include:

- HSRC Policy briefs – This is the shrinking of big and technical research reports into quick easy reads that are accessible/understandable to government policy-makers and others who are interested in formulating or influencing policy.
- HSRC Review – This is a quarterly news magazine with articles of recent research outputs, success stories of collaborative projects, and projects involving capacity development at community level. The HSRC Review assists the organisation in adhering to its mandate which is to serve the public purpose, inform effective making and monitoring of policy, evaluation of policy implementation, and enhancement of public debate through effective dissemination research findings.
- Seminars - HSRC seminars are a platform for sharing research as well as a mechanism to network with peers, sponsors, and other stakeholders. This series of seminars has grown to about seventy seminars per year and it also comprises book launches and public lectures with national and international audience.





Session 1A & 1B

- The Policy Action Network (PAN) provides information on the 'how to' information on getting research into policy and getting policy into action. It also contributes to evidence-informed policy-making through the sourcing of relevant documents and resources from a wide range of sources. It contributes to the understanding of evidence supply and demand by drawing attention to current issues that may need to be highlighted.
- Government Cluster Policy Workshops serve to bring the researchers and policy makers together because research evidence and knowledge sharing are critical prerequisites for evidence-based policy-making, policy coherence, alignment and coordination across government.
- Other pieces of evidence that are facing extinction are the stories of the military veterans. The preservation of the story of the liberation struggle is rather precarious because by its nature, the liberation struggle was discreet, thus a lot of what happened remains unknown. This is aggravated by the fact that many of the military veterans are old and dying, thus many die without getting an opportunity to have their stories preserved. To this end, RIA is engaged in two projects:
- Preservation of South Africa's liberation heritage through the documentation of the history of military veterans;
- Capacity Building of Military Veterans in Mpumalanga, North West, Limpopo, Free State and Northern Cape for the Production of their Autobiographies.

Facilitators

- 1) Dr. Thembinkosi Twalo
- 2) Dr. Edmore Marinda
- 3) Dr. Stephen Rule
- 4) Dr. Konosoang Sobane
- 5) Ms. Valerie Fichardt
- 6) Dr. Hester du Plessis

Other Contributors

- 1) Dr. Temba Masilela
- 2) Dr. Wilfred Lunga
- 3) Dr. Cyril Adonis

Target Audience

Policy-makers, academics, researchers, professionals, donor organisations, and practitioners in different industries that rely or make use of research evidence. No prior knowledge of the various issues that will be discussed is required.

Session 1C

Measuring evidence use: the value of contribution tracing (Chair: Kanika Jha, manager, policy and evidence uptake, 3ie)

Objectives

3ie staff specialising in monitoring and measuring evidence use will give an overview of what 3ie is learning from applying contribution tracing to monitor and measure evidence uptake and use of 3ie-supported studies and reviews. This combined pilot and learning project is improving the rigour, objectivity of and confidence in claims 3ie makes about instances of uptake and use. It is also validating the basic soundness of our evidence use and change indicators and our overall approach, as well as help refine it.

Description

How can we measure evidence use in an unbiased and rigorous way? What tools and methodologies can we apply to increase the confidence we have in claims on evidence use from evaluations and reviews? This interactive satellite session will draw on 3ie's experience with monitoring and measuring evidence uptake and use from a portfolio of completed impact evaluations and systematic reviews. Contribution tracing, a methodology that draws from Barbara Befani and Gavin Stedman-Bryce's work, applies Bayesian updating to traditional process tracing to reduce subjectivity and increase confidence and consistency in making claims.

The facilitators will present 3ie's experience with applying contribution tracing to a learning project to measure change from a portfolio of completed impact evaluations and systematic reviews. We will share examples and lessons from this project and what we are learning about the indicators we use to measure change. We will describe the improvements made to our overall approach for monitoring and measuring evidence use from studies.

Participants will work in groups on a few exercises where they will be asked to apply contribution tracing techniques to come up with testable evidence use claims and data collection strategies to measure use.

Facilitators

1. Ananta Seth, policy, advocacy and communication assistant;
2. Kirthi Rao, consultant, research associate, 3ie;
3. Radhika Menon, senior policy and advocacy officer, 3ie

Target audience

- Anyone responsible for monitoring, measuring and reporting on whether what you have produced is being used.
- Familiarity with looking systematically and systemically at evidence production and the factors that contribute to and affect whether and how evidence gets used.
- Familiarity with process tracing, most significant change or outcome harvesting may be helpful.





Session 1D

Exploring synergies between evidence maps and rapid response services to support evidence-informed policy-making: towards collaboration and shared learning (UJ/DPME)

Objective

To explore synergies between evidence maps and rapid response services as two linked mechanisms to support evidence-informed policy-making

Description

This satellite session will commence a conversation on the usefulness and relevance of evidence maps and rapid response services as two mechanisms to support evidence-informed policy-making. The session will bring together experts on evidence mapping and rapid responses services from a range of settings (e.g. academia, government, NGOs) and sectors (e.g. environment, education, health care) to discuss synergies and opportunities for collaboration. The session will attempt to deepen conversations on two key questions:

- 1) How to foster collaboration and co-ordination between producers and users of evidence maps and rapid response services?
- 2) To what extent can evidence maps be used as a substitute for systematic reviews in rapid response services outside the health care sector?

Discussing these two key questions, the session hopes to bring together experts on evidence mapping and rapid responses services to identify practical next steps for the institutionalising of both mechanisms within policy-making processes. Therefore, the key audience for this session are government officials, particularly from South Africa, which has a number of established and piloted evidence mapping and rapid response services.

Chair: Laurenz Langer, Senior Researcher, Africa Centre for Evidence

Facilitators

- 1) Harsha Dayal, Department for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
- 2) Rhona Mijumbi-Deve, African Centre for Systematic Reviews and Knowledge Translation
- 3) Birte Snilstveit, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation
- 4) Carina van Rooyen, Johannesburg Centre for Environmental Evidence

Target Audience

Guests will come largely from government colleagues and will be familiar with ideas around evidence use in government.

Session 2A

Strengthening evidence use in Uganda: what's working and what's next (Chair: Radhika Menon, senior policy and advocacy officer, 3ie)

Objectives

Speakers will provide summaries from each of their perspectives:

- (1) need for more evidence use; (2) accessibility and usefulness of evidence; (3) what they have been doing to use evidence themselves and promote its use; and (4) what are next steps for continuing to increase access to and use of quality evidence and some main challenges.

Description

The chair will situate the session in the context of the importance of promoting evidence use at country level, and how that ties in with other efforts to improve it. Presenters will describe a range of evidence needs and uses, as well as the variation in what works well or not. The talk show style encourages a conversation among the speakers and with the audience.

Panellists

1. Josephine Watera, Uganda Parliament M&E Unit,
2. Rhona Mijumbi-Deve, Africa Centre for Systematic Reviews and Knowledge Translation;
3. Timothy Lubanga, Office of the Prime Minister; Uganda

Target Audience

This session will be interesting to participants working to improve evidence use at country level. In particular, participants interested in the challenges of promoting evidence use by a range of influencers on government, as well as government itself. It will be most useful for people with some background and practice promoting evidence use with one or more of these stakeholders.

Session 2B

Invisibility and evidence: Time's up for evidence that doesn't consider gendered drivers of inequality (Chair: Beryl Leach, director and head of policy and advocacy, 3ie)

Objectives

Participants will shine a light on this systemic problem to understand how it happens, why it is resistant to change and explore what they think should be done to ensure that evidence for decision-making addresses gendered inequality. By helping to kick off the conference, this session aims to raise awareness and sensitivity that participants can be practice throughout the conference.

Description

Participants will describe the challenges they are experiencing and what they are doing to promote more gender- and equity-responsive research and evidence use. They will offer recommendations for addressing invisible and missing evidence. Audience members will describe their experiences and offer suggestions for positive changes. Everyone will explore what we can be hearing and doing differently during the conference and when we go back home.

Panellists

1. Adeline Sibanda, president, African Evaluation Association;





2. Birte Snilstveit, senior evaluation specialist, 3ie;
3. Mark Abrahams, editor-in-chief, African Evaluation Journal and senior consultant, Southern Hemisphere

Target Audience

Participants who produce, translate and/or use research or evaluation evidence. Familiarity with research and evaluation methods, critical appraisal and writing for academic publication will be very helpful.

Session 2C

GESI Network needs assessment (Prof. Sandy Oliver, EPPI Centre)

The session will build on the results of the GESI Network needs assessment and will aim to work with Network members attending the session on potential solutions to answer these needs or to draft a list of what needs to be done to answer these needs through collaboration with other Network members and supported by GESI Secretariat.

Session 2D

A peer learning network for government policymakers to advance evidence use in Africa: an emerging strategy (Results for All)

Objectives

To share and solicit feedback on the strategy and structure for a global evidence network. The network would aim to support governments in advancing evidence-informed policymaking and collaborate with AEN and other existing initiatives.

Description

Over the last year, Results for All has interviewed government policymakers and their partners in research, advocacy, and donor organizations. We also convened teams of government policymakers from 8 countries in a peer learning event in July 2018, to share strategies for using evidence to improve policy implementation. Through this consultative process and test activities, we have identified common challenges and opportunities to advance evidence use in government. We propose a peer learning network for policymakers in government as a promising platform for amplifying the value of using evidence and strengthening institutional capacity to use evidence in decision making. In this session, we will present the findings of our year-long process, outline a strategy and structure for the proposed global evidence network, and solicit feedback from participants. Several leading champions in government will also discuss their progress to institutionalize evidence use, and how the proposed network could best support them and catalyze further progress. This session will discuss the following types of questions: Does the proposed network strategy reflect the needs and experiences of its intended members? Does it propose realistic ways to respond to challenges and opportunities to advance evidence-informed policymaking? What thematic issues areas should the network address? What should the governance structure of the network look like? How should the network collaborate with and complement existing groups and initiatives like AEN? How can we create a financially sustainable network? Participants will have the chance to brainstorm ideas in small groups, visually map changes to the approach shared by Results for All and share feedback with the larger group. Government policymakers, evidence producers, donors, and anyone seeking to advance evidence use in government are encouraged to attend.

Facilitators

- 1) Abeba Taddese, Executive Director, Results for All
- 2) Ari Gandolfo, Projects and Partnerships Manager, Results for All

Target Audience

This event is intended for multiple audiences. The primary target group is government policymakers who are championing or using evidence to inform decision making. The second group is funders who are interested in learning more about the network as a potential platform for strengthening government capacity for policy engagement and seek to hear policymaker perspectives on the support they need to advance and institutionalize evidence use in policy. The third group is researchers and evidence producers, civil society organizations, and relevant initiatives with an interest in building a strong evidence ecosystem in Africa and shaping the strategy for a network that is focused on evidence use in policy.

Session 3A, 3B, 3C

Citizen Evidence and Evidence-informed Policy-Making: Whose Knowledge Counts? (IDRC)

Objectives

This session aims to explore the place of citizen knowledge as an essential element of evidence-informed policy-making by surfacing emerging practices, opportunities and challenges, and to identify potential areas of collaboration for building an agenda for action.

Description

The credibility and legitimacy of expert knowledge in public policy and decision-making processes is increasingly being questioned. As a vital counterbalance to rising tides of elitism and populism, citizen knowledge makes a crucial contribution to policy-making processes. Recognising that evidence is not exclusively based on research, citizen evidence draws on local, cultural and individual knowledge gained through direct experience. It integrates both individual and collective knowledge and is therefore an essential element of evidence-informed policy-making. Citizen evidence, typically expressed through the democratic process and accessed via stakeholder consultations or social audits, is often brokered through representatives such as civil society organisations, including policy research organisations, or cultural or regional groups. Discussions do happen between policy-makers and these groups but often in spontaneous or unstructured ways; there is therefore a need for knowledge-gathering to be systematised. Building on an initial discussion held during the African Evidence Informed Policy Forum in March 2018 in Nairobi, this session seeks to continue the conversation with a broader audience of evidence experts. Through a participatory process including break-out groups and a "fishbowl" methodology, the session will address the following questions:

- What are the stories of success around citizen knowledge being used as evidence by policy actors?
- What approaches/mechanisms and partnerships can help to systematically support the use of citizen knowledge in evidence-informed policy-making?





- How can facilitators and enablers of citizen knowledge in evidence-informed policy-making help navigate power dynamics and work towards an equitable environment in which knowledge is received, interpreted and shared?

Facilitators

- 1) Peter Taylor, International Development Research Centre
- 2) Diakalia Sanogo, International Development Research Centre

Target Audience

This session is aimed at participants who are both interested and experienced in the use of citizen evidence to inform policy-making. This group will likely include researchers, community organisers and advocates, donors, and policy-makers, who wish to promote the co-creation of knowledge, at the intersection of civil society and research or have worked on social audits or citizen monitoring. Junior researchers and young people are particularly encouraged to attend the session.

Session 3D

Capacity development to use evidence in decision-making: working toward partnerships and building space to use approaches that work (Moderator: Ruth Stewart, Director, Africa Centre for Evidence)

Background and Objectives

The objective of this workshop is to take forward the regional dialogue on capacity to produce and use evidence by focusing on what needs to be done to start improving how we organise and deliver capacity development in the region.

The focus of this session is on what is working and what is not in the region. The session is a continuation of a dialogue started by 3ie at the African Evaluation Association Conference in Kampala in March 2017 that continued at the Global Evidence Summit in Cape Town in September 2017. We are drawing primarily on experiences with methods to improve evaluation evidence and methods being used to improve evidence use, an increasing donor priority.

What we have learned so far in the dialogues is that there is not enough coordination among providers and that training efforts are ad hoc, donor-driven, short-term and of limited value and impact. Providers are not partnering at country level, contributing to uncoordinated capacity development efforts that tax beneficiaries and contribute to inefficiencies.

The demand for improved capacity development is often perverted by incentives that reward attendance and not learning or application afterwards. The key to improving the impact of capacity development lie in these areas:

- Willingness to set evidence-informed standards for providing capacity development that rest on the following aspects
- Partnerships of providers at country level coordinate their efforts
- Capacity development is embedded as part of achieving programme objectives
- Ability to use evidence-informed methods that are effective in improving capacities

Description

In this 90-minute session, panellists will take the dialogue forward in short presentations about how they are working to address the short-comings and dysfunctions in capacity development in the region. We will be introducing efforts that look at making systemic improvements in training and education by agreeing on standards and harmonising approaches. The audience will engage with the discussion. There will be group work to focus in more detail on identified areas for improvement, and recommendations for how to address them will be shared in the feedback.

Speakers

1. Adeline Sibanda, President, African Evaluation Association;
2. Beryl Leach, Director and head of policy and advocacy, 3ie;
3. Caitlin Blaser, Senior Technical M&E Specialist, Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results – Anglophone Africa (CLEAR AA);
4. Emily Hayter, Programme specialist and acting head, Evidence for Policy, INASP;
5. Stanley Sixolile Ntakumba, Chief Director: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Capacity Development and Knowledge Management, DPME, Republic of South Africa

Target audience

Participants who provide or fund any sort of training, mentoring or other type of capacity development in evidence use or evidence production are strongly encouraged to attend.





Workshops

25 September 2018

Session 4A

Introduction to evidence synthesis and systematic reviews (Prof. Sandy Oliver, EPPI Centre)

Objectives

To introduce systematic review methods that address questions that arise at different stages of policy development, questions about: understanding the nature and scale of a problem; comparing the policy options; and implementing the chosen policy. The session is designed to suit participants thinking of using systematic reviews, commissioning systematic reviews, or conducting systematic reviews. They may be looking for an introduction to the evidence synthesis and systematic reviews or wanting to know more about the broad range of approaches available and how to make them more relevant for policy discussions.

Description

This session will introduce participants to a spectrum of systematic review methods that seek to: (a) understand the nature of a problem using qualitative studies and qualitative analytical methods; (b) test a hypothesis using quantitative studies and quantitative analytical methods; or (c) explore existing theories – whether they are well developed or implicit – with mixed methods. It will provide examples of systematic reviews that have made a difference to policy decisions, and then consider what characteristics of systematic reviews make them relevant to policy discussions and decisions, and how policy makers and researchers can work together to make systematic reviews more relevant to policy evidence needs. There will be an opportunity for participants to apply the fundamental principles to areas of their own interest and consider ways of working that might suit their own organisational context. A mixed group of participants will allow exploration of systematic reviews from the perspectives of research and policy, including policy development and policy implementation.

Target audience

Policy makers, researchers and students, of any level.

Session 4B

How can research organizations more effectively disseminate their research to, and support the use of research evidence by, decision-makers (Prof. John Lavis, McMaster University)

Objectives

To understand the questions that need to be answered by organizations so that they can position themselves within the ecosystem of organizations supporting the use of research evidence by decision-makers

Description

John will walk participants through a series of four questions: 1) is your organization's research relevant to decision-makers and, if so, how are the relevant types of decisions made in your context?; 2) does your organization's research help with clarifying problems, framing options, identifying implementation considerations, or planning for monitoring and evaluation?; 3) does your organization have the time and resources to: a) put the research in the context of all of the other research evidence that addresses the same question (i.e., a systematic review), b) put the research in the context of all of the other types of research evidence needed to inform policymaking (e.g., evidence brief for policy)? c) put the research in the context of all influences on decision-making (e.g., stakeholder dialogue); and 4) what can your organization do more generally to support the use of research evidence by decision-makers? He will focus mostly on policymakers as one key type of decision-maker. For each question, workshop participants will be engaged in discussions about what their organizations are doing now and what it would take to move towards achieving greater impact.

Target audience

- Directors and staff of research organizations and organizations that support the use of research evidence by decision-makers
- Appropriate for any those with any level of background knowledge and experience





Session 4C

Networking between Francophone and Anglophone Africa: bridging a post-colonial divide (Moderator: Deo-Gracias Houndolo, Evaluation Specialist, 3ie, WACIE secretariat)

Objectives

This session aims to identify why networks in Africa have tended to follow historical post-colonial regional and language demarcations and examine what reinforces and reproduces the continuing divide between Francophone and Anglophone development programmes, funding and networking. Together participants will explore a number of related questions.

- (a) What makes sense to keep the way it is?
- (b) What would need to change and who needs to be willing to change?
- (c) What is the appropriate role of the Africa Evidence Network, given these realities, as an informal network and with limited resources in working in both regions?

Description

In this 90-minute session, panellists will provide an overview of why the divide exists, how networking in Africa has tended to follow it and why and provide current examples. The audience will be invited to share their insights and experiences and identify what they think works and doesn't and what would be required to work differently.

Speakers

1. Abdoulaye Gounou, Chef du Bureau de l'Evaluation des Politiques Publiques, Presidence de la Republique du Benin;
2. Siziwe Ngcwabe, Africa Evidence Network senior manager;
3. John Njovu, AfrEA board member

Target audience

Participants who work or network on both Anglophone and Francophone Africa or who wish to do so. We are particularly interested in participants who can share their stories about what opportunities facilitated being able to find common ground, the challenges and what you learned from the experience. This is an important session for donors, who play an important role in reproducing the divisions, would have to increase funding for any change and would need to understand the facilitators and barriers to change.

Session 4D

Introduction to Evidence informed decision-making (Tamara Kredo, Cochrane South Africa)

Objectives

By the end of the workshop participants will be able to

- Define evidence informed decision-making
- Briefly describe role of systematic reviews in evidence informed decision-making
- Outline the GRADE 'Evidence to Decision' framework for policy development
- Discuss barriers to and facilitators of evidence informed decision making

Description

Policymakers, researchers, practitioners and the public need to know how to find and use high quality, relevant research to inform their decisions. Overall, this workshop aims to increase awareness about the approach to evidence informed decision-making and share information about the tools available to support the process.

Evidence-informed decision-making involves several well described steps for integrating the best available research evidence alongside other context or individual factors into the decision-making process. Best available evidence is derived from well conducted systematic reviews. These systematic reviews provide reliable evidence to address different questions by identifying and evaluating all relevant primary research studies and synthesising their results, while applying rigorous and explicit methods to minimize bias and random error in research.

Despite known steps in evidence informed decision-making, there are challenges. There are potential barriers to using evidence to inform decisions, as well as potential enablers. There are increasingly tools to support the processes required for evidence informed decision-making. As an example, we will introduce the GRADE 'Evidence to Decision' framework designed to support a transparent evidence to policy process.

Facilitator

Cochrane South Africa, South African Medical Research Council

Target audience

This workshop is relevant for practitioners, policy-makers, consumers and researchers who have an interest in or are involved in making decisions about which interventions to implement.





Oral Posters & Landscape Maps

TIME	POD 1	POD 2	POD 3
09h00-09h10	Optimizing Agricultural Investments by Harnessing the Best of Good Practices using Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) Dr Bola Akanji, International Consultant, USA	Progress in Evidence Map of propagating evidence in policy making and guideline preparation in Ethiopia and Sub-Saharan Africa by Ethiopian Evidence Based Health Care Centre Prof. Sudhakar Morankar, Jimma University, Ethiopia	Assessing ICT interventions for promoting access, equity and quality education in Cameroon using the Evidence Barometer. Mr Rigobert Pambe, Effective Basic Services Africa (eBASE), Cameroon
09h20-09h30	CANCELLED Of Africa's Arts and Culture: A Potential for Promoting Use of Best practices in Basic Services Mr Akumbu Bubuh, La Liberte Arts Group, Cameroon	Promoting evidence-informed adolescent sexual and reproductive health decisions in Kenya: Lessons from the enSURE adolescent sexual and reproductive health project Ms Violet Murunga, University of Liverpool/African Institute for Development Policy, Kenya	Research priority setting for health systems development to advance Universal health coverage in Uganda: The stakeholder engagements and perspectives. Dr Aloysius Ssenyonjo, Makerere University School Of Public Health, Uganda
09h40-09h50	A Health Technology Assessment Agency in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Achievements and Challenges ahead eighteen months after its launch Prof. Faustin Chenge, Centre de Connaissance en Santé au Congo, DRC	Evaluation of social transfers in Zambia and its uses Mr John Njovu, African Evaluation Association, Zambia	Making the Dividend Count: The Role of Communication in Bridging Demographic Dividend Research and Africa's Policy Processes Ms Diana Warira, African Institute for Development Policy, Kenya
10h00-10h10	What is the evidence on the links between ecosystem services and poverty alleviation in Africa? A demand-led evidence map for decision-making Dr Yvonne Erasmus, University of Johannesburg/ACE, South Africa	No session	No session
10h30-11h00	Networking and refreshment break		
11h00-11h10	Landscape Map Mr. Samuel Quaye, Programme Officer, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana	Landscape Map Dr Julian Bagyendera, Provide and Equip Ltd, Uganda	Landscape Map Ms Rachel Emaasit, Institute of Parliamentary Studies, Uganda
11h20-11h30	Landscape Map Dr Teferi Hailemichael Hassen, Kotebe Metropolitan University, Ethiopia	Landscape Map Mr Thabo Hlophe, Deputy Prime Minister's Office, Swaziland	Landscape Map Mr Emmanuel Kamga, Effective Basic Services (eBASE) Africa, Cameroon
11h40-11h50	Landscape Map Ms Aimtonga Amini, REPOA, Tanzania	Landscape Map Prof. Sudhakar Morankar, Jimma University, Ethiopia	Landscape Map Dr Chukwudi Nnaji, Lung Infection and Immunity Unit, South Africa
12h00-12h10	Landscape Map Dr Ekwaro Obuku, Makerere University/African Centre for Systematic Reviews & Knowledge Translation, Uganda	Landscape Map Dr Olabisi Oduwole, Institute of Tropical Diseases Research And Prevention, Nigeria	Landscape Map Ms Jenna Patterson, Vaccines for Africa Initiative (UCT), South Africa
12h20- 12h30	Landscape Map Mr Alioune Seydi, Building Resilience to Recurring Food Insecurity in Senegal Project, Senegal	Landscape Map Ms Diana Warira, African Institute for Development Policy, Kenya	No session
12h30-13h30	Lunch		





Accommodation and Transport



The AEN in conjunction with Turners DMC has arranged a variety of travel and accommodation options for the conference participants.

The official hotel for the conference is the [City Lodge Lynnwood](#), is the only hotel from which shuttle services will run to and from the CSIR.

- For accommodation bookings, [click here](#)
- For transport/shuttle/transfer bookings, [click here](#)
- For all queries/quotes on air travel please contact Turners DMC:
 - Bruce Rumble (bruce@turnersdmc.co.za)

