



This is the concept note
for Evidence 2020.
Your inputs are
welcome.

Proposed for the week of 14 September 2020, Kampala, Uganda

Evidence 2020 will foster **collaboration**, facilitate **dialogue** and move forward thinking, practice and action to advance the use of evidence in decision-making across the continent.

Evidence 2020 will focus on **advancing the African evidence ecosystem** and, in doing so, will build on and move forwards the work of the previous Evidence conferences hosted by the Africa Evidence Network.

As with previous AEN Evidence conferences, Evidence 2020 will be the **most diverse of evidence conferences** around the world, attracting participants from all sectors across civil society, government, academia and all in between, spanning all types of evidence to inform the full range of decisions from understanding the issues, to assessing the impact of interventions to address those issues.

Evidence 2020 will be the culmination of a number of **collaborative workstreams prioritised by Network members** and facilitated by the Africa Evidence Network Secretariat. It will lead to **concrete outputs** such as collaborative activities, funding applications and position statements.

Evidence 2020 will employ a range of **innovative approaches** to facilitate networking and collaborative dialogue, maximising opportunities for participants to engage with one another and with the **high-quality content** shared across both our traditional and online conference platforms.

Evidence 2020 will use technology in new and exciting ways to **enable virtual participation**, reducing our carbon footprint and **increasing the inclusivity** of our event.

Evidence 2020 will be a conference **like no other** you have ever been part of.

What will Evidence 2020 focus on?

Evidence 2020 will advance the African evidence ecosystem by facilitating activities within a number of strands. In January 2019 the Africa Evidence Network has set out to begin dialogue on two themes of importance to our members. These will form two pillars of work between now and September 2020. This is not to exclude other dialogues and priorities being included in the programme over the months building up to the conference.

We are committed to:

1. Moving forward the agenda for the development of evidence capacities

Since May 2017 the Africa Evidence Network and partners, including AfREA, CLEAR-AA and 3ie, have been facilitating discussions about what is wrong with capacity development for the evidence movement. We are now shifting our emphasis to finding solutions and highlighting regional innovations and successes.

The Network is committed to publishing a series of blogs and hosting linked webinars between now and September 2020 to move forward discussions towards shared solutions. Our members and partners are invited to join these discussions in person and online, and to help shape plans for how these dialogues will culminate in concrete outputs at Evidence 2020, such as collaborative activities, funding applications and position statements.

2. Advancing the art and science of evidence use in Africa

Africa Evidence Network members have been working for many years to support evidence use across Africa using various approaches to varying degrees of success. Together we have a wealth of knowledge and experience. Our Secretariat, and others across our membership, have expertise in reviewing the evidence about using evidence. This strand of work aims to bring together our collective knowledge of the craft of supporting evidence use with the academic research, to understand, interrogate and advance the art and science of evidence use.

The Network is committed to collating stories of change, mapping evidence-informed policy-making activities across the continent, collating stories of change and capturing cases of success and failure. We will also be systematically mapping the research evidence about evidence use and integrating it with what we learn about the art of evidence use in Africa.

We will be publishing a series of blogs and hosting linked webinars between now and September 2020 to share and debate what we are learning. Our members and partners are invited to join these discussions in person and online, and to help shape plans for how these dialogues will culminate in concrete outputs at Evidence 2020.

3. An additional theme of importance to the Africa Evidence Network

There is scope for additional themes of importance to be considered in the build up to, and at, Evidence 2020. This might include cross-cutting issues, such as priorities of security, health, education, and economic development, and how evidence can be used to advance these. We might focus on particular types of evidence, such as citizen evidence, or on how technology can advance the use of evidence. It could focus on something we have not yet thought of. There is still space to shape our agenda.

Join the conversation about Evidence 2020 and email your views on this concept note to ace@uj.ac.za.