

## Using evidence to design girl's education policies in Africa

The rest of the world has plenty of lessons to draw from Kenya's approach of designing educational reforms based on evidence, particularly to the benefit of girls. In a Brookings editorial, authors Helen Grant and Emiliana Vegas report on how Kenya's Ministry of Education has spearheaded large-scale reforms to their national curriculum since 2013, highlighting the **Tusome initiative as one success story of an intervention that has strong evidence, is cost-effective, and works at scale**. The initiative strengthened public schools through supporting teachers and students to accelerate children's progress in early-grades reading. Most importantly, the article highlights the key steps in policy action where evidence was valued at every step of the implementation process.



**Using evidence for girls' education**  
The Tusome initiative in Kenya is aimed at improving literacy outcomes for over 7 million Kenyan children.

Photo: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

Be inspired by **Dr Sharief Hendricks**, a University of Cape Town sport and exercise science researcher who was recently selected as a member of the Future Professors Programme. Learn more about his **research approach, passion to communicate research, inform policy**, and drive sports injury prevention through evidence-use.

Study recent findings from the West Africa Capacity-building and Impact Evaluation (WACIE) Program which have cited **limited capacity as a barrier for the use of evidence in policy-making**. To address this barrier, the programme has introduced the **WACIE Helpdesk** which it plans to use to bridge the capacity gaps in the evidence ecosystem.

International lender the International Monetary Fund has put pressure on Tanzania's government to **report data on COVID-19 infection and death rates** if the country is to qualify for the emergency loan it has applied for. Tanzania has not published data on rates of infections and deaths related to COVID-19 since April 2020.

Learn more about a project funded by the Swedish Development Agency that **empowers policy-makers and researchers in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Congo, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Namibia** to strengthen national and regional Science, Technology and Innovation policies. The project aims to support improved governance of STI and research institutions in-line with the 2017 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers.

## Putting the spotlight on... ...a new network!

Welcome to the **African Conservation Leadership Network**, an organisation working to strengthen and develop a rising generation of African conservation leaders in Africa. We welcome you!

Want to spotlight you or your organisation?  
**Let us know** and you could be featured.

## Mark your calendars

**23 June 2021: Peaceful Couples, Families and Communities: Results of a Faith-Based Norms-Shifting Intervention in Nigeria, online.**

**28-29 June 2021: Global Education Summit: Financing Global Partnerships for Education 2021-2025, online.**

**30 June 2021: United Nations International Day of Parliamentarism, online.**

This month, we travel back to a time before remote working, virtual gatherings, and COVID-19 to remember the **highlights from Africa Evidence Week 2019**. Talk about a high-energy virtual celebration!

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

### Using global evidence-based practices to inform local reproductive health contexts

Find out how [the World Health Organization \(WHO\) found success in implementing their reproductive health programme in 15 countries](#) using community group engagements as a mechanism to reduce pregnancy rates among young people. The programme encouraged the use of stories to share implementation experiences by organisations leading change in their communities. Each of the 15 countries is represented by a lived example of a [winning implementation story](#), highlighting [evidence-based WHO guidelines and High Impact Practices \(HIPs\) in Family Planning](#), thereby producing contribution to the global evidence-based practices in family planning and reproductive health which can be used in local contexts. Look out for the [series of webinars](#) on the winning implementation stories in the coming months!



**Women attending a class in family planning**, evidence-based HIPs and WHO Guidelines are being used to improve family planning and sexual and reproductive health and rights around the world.

Photo: UN Photo/John Isaac

### INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

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Kelly-Ann Allen, senior education lecturer at Monash University in Australia argues for her recently [released free policy guide book for teachers and schools about inclusiveness and climate science](#). Highlighting that [the book is based on evidence](#) and asserting that it does not impose any ideological point of view into education systems, Allen shares how the book bridges the gap between research and practice by providing evidence to teachers as and when they might need it.

In the newly-edited volume [‘The Contestation of Expertise in the European Union’](#), authors explore the [role of experts in policy-making in the European Union](#) over the last decade. They draw four distinct scenarios in their analyses that map out what the future role of expertise in policy-making could be in the region.

A recent Africa Check blog reports on [11 African governments who have increased their policy responses to misinformation since 2016](#). Pointing out that the increase in punitive laws and regulations against misinformation, have not yielded any substantial results although they have nearly doubled from 17 to 31 to date. Concluding by calling for an alternative positive approach involving enabling corrective information, self-regulation of the media, and holding officials to account in order to combat the spread of misinformation.

### Hot off the press

**Bäck et al:** ‘Local politicians in action? The relationship between perceived prerequisites and actions of political committees responsible for social services in supporting the implementation of evidence-based practice.’

**Bhaumik et al:** ‘Low-value medical care in the pandemic—is this what the doctor ordered?’

**Raimi et al:** ‘Evidence-based Environmental and Public Health Practices to Respond to the COVID-19 Crisis’

### Opportunities

- The IDRC and the United Nations Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries [calls for proposals for the ‘Evidence for Innovation’ research program](#). Due 28 July 2021.
- Calling all social science and humanities scholars: [apply for the French Institutes for Advanced Study Fellowship Programme 2022/2023](#). Applications close on 6 July 2021.