



Exploring the feasibility of digital tools to support a COVID response in Ghana

Managing public health emergencies with digital and mobile devices has developed in leaps and bounds in the last decade. Real-time surveillance of reported COVID-19 infections has been key to the global pandemic response. In an article penned for [the Conversation](#), researchers [Michael Head](#), [Kwabena Nuamah](#), and [Laud Boateng](#) reflect on their [feasibility study](#) which aimed to identify the value of the Opine World system as an additional digital tool to the Ghana surveillance and public health infrastructure. Read more about the findings and recommendations of how digital technologies can be used in public health emergencies in Ghanaian and sub-Saharan African contexts.



Technology could be used in public health emergencies in developing countries like Ghana

Photo: The Conversation / Wikimedia Commons

After the launch of the Africa Evidence Network [Evidence Capacities webinar series](#) at [Africa Evidence Week 2021](#), [three webinars have since been held](#), covering a variety of capacity development topics. Catch the fourth webinar happening 19 January 2022 at 14h00 (SAST) and continue engaging in conversations on [LinkedIn](#)!

Namibia has been awarded N\$170 million climate-change resilience fund from the German government. This is part of a regional treaty on climate change which seeks to establish a [science centre aimed at strengthening scientific and evidence-use capacity](#) within Southern African Development Community countries.

Researchers from the University of Cape Town and University of Connecticut conducted a study examining how climate change literacy rates differ among populations across 33 African countries. In an [article on the Conversation](#), the researchers highlight the importance of increased climate change literacy rates for informed climate change adaptation in Africa.

A roundtable discussion at the American University in Cairo entitled "Towards an Evidence-Informed Development Agenda for Egypt" highlighted policy priorities and knowledge gaps where [evidence can help strengthen decision-making processes](#). This event saw support from top policy-maker in Egypt, Nevine El-Kabbag, Minister of Social Solidarity.

Putting the spotlight on... ...a new member!

Welcome [Nchafack Almighty Nkengateh](#), a PhD researcher and communication specialist from Cameroon! She was inspired to join the AEN after reading an [article about the Africa Evidence Week 2021](#) in the [Research to Action](#) newsletter! Follow her handle [@almightynn](#) on Twitter!

Want to spotlight you or your organisation? [Let us know](#) and you could be featured.

Mark your calendars

23 November: Resolving citizens' complaints: what makes it happen? And who owns the process?, [online](#).

2-3 December: ACED EPA 2021 Forum: Connecting data and research to policy to transform the agricultural sector, [online](#).

In this month's [AEN blog post](#), [Damazo Kadengye](#) and [Bernard Sabiti](#) from the [African Population and Health Research Center](#) share the importance of investing in monitoring progress and tracking performance for evidence-based decision-making.

View all blog posts [online](#) and use the Network to share your AEN blog [here](#).



Mapping mechanisms linking legislatures with academics and academic knowledge globally!

UK Parliamentary Academic Fellows, Dr Vicky Ward (University of St Andrews) and Dr Mark Monaghan (University of Birmingham) are working on an **exciting research project examining the global landscape of mechanisms connecting academic knowledge with parliaments**. The researchers seek **participants to contribute to a digital map** of organisations, infrastructure and processes linking parliaments, congresses or other types of legislature to academics and academic knowledge. The researchers hope that the map will form a resource for those involved in harnessing academic knowledge that can be used to form connections and share learning. Find out more about the mapping project or how to get involved



Contribute your knowledge to a digital map of organisations, infrastructures and processes linking parliaments to academics and academic knowledge.

Photo by [NASA](#) on [Unsplash](#)

INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

In a recent mirage article, **Human Reproductive Programme Alliance Advisory Board chair, Malabika Sarker** highlights the need for strengthening research capacities of young, female, and mid-level researchers to inform effective health policies and programmes. **The article advocates for research capacity strengthening** and argues for its importance in attaining sexual and reproductive health and rights globally.

Returning from the two-week-long **26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties** in Glasgow, researchers **Simon Lewis** (University of Leeds and University College London) and **Mark Maslin** (University College London) **share insights on five lessons from the final signed Glasgow Climate Pact**. The pact, agreed to by all 197 countries, includes commitments to phase out coal and address carbon market loopholes.

The **UK Coronavirus Immunology Consortium's** report on **the impact of patient and public involvement in the UK Coronavirus Immunology Consortium** serves as a good example of initiatives trying to bridge the gap between research and the lived experiences of patients and the public. The report also comments on the challenges/opportunities to achieve this.

Hot off the press

Cassidy et al: 'Trainee-led research using an integrated knowledge translation or other research partnership approaches: a scoping review'

Pan et al: 'Collaboration on evidence synthesis in Africa: a network study of growing research capacity'

Zdunek, et al: 'Factors influencing the uptake of evidence in child health policy-making: results of a survey among 23 European countries'

Opportunities

- **Frontline AIDS** civil society organisation seeks to recruit a consultant with experience in working on evidence maps. **Applications** due 22 November 2021.
- **Call for proposals:** Global Information Society Watch 2021-2022 report. **Apply** by: 22 November 2021.
- **INGSA-Africa** extends a **call for academic and technical papers** on science advice in emergencies. **Submissions** due by 15 December 2021.