

Five years of championing evidence-use together

Following an amazing five years at the Hewlett Foundation and preparing for her new role with the Open Philanthropy Project, **Norma Altshuler** posted a final blog post to the Hewlett Foundation partners and colleagues. In the post, she shares reflections about developments in the evidence-informed policy sector. She notes her excitement on work focused on **responsive, decision-focused evidence**. She credits the impact achieved by her partners and outlines ways practitioners can increase impact, including ways to raise more funds. In addition, she shared **an insightful tweet thread** of key points from her blog with followers, thanking all the Hewlett Foundation partners and colleagues for their contribution during her time at the Hewlett Foundation.



Where to from here? Norma Altshuler pens a notable goodbye blog to the evidence community giving guidance on carving the future of EIDM.

Photo: William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

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Researchers from the National Centre for Technology Management are **calling for a boost in the output of social science research in developing countries**. Using Nigeria as a case study, they conducted a research project connected to the **Doing Research Program of the Global Development Network** to provide the first comprehensive **open-access dataset on social science research** production, dissemination, and uptake in Nigeria.

The nomination deadline for the **Africa Evidence Leadership Award (AELA)** is being extended. This year the AEN will award **three winners in new categories** to acknowledge the myriad of contributions different roles make to growing the evidence ecosystem in Africa. Make sure you send your nomination and confirmation forms to **ace@uj.ac.za** soon! To hear from past winners, follow the **#AENis10 vlog series** by previous AELA winners on Twitter!

The newly launched Linked Immunisation Action Network (**Linked**) **supports** member countries to implement national immunization programs **using evidence-informed decision-making**. It achieves this support through peer-to-peer learning and action.

The **#EvidenceCapacities webinar series** is hosting its fifth episode in a series of twelve on 16 March 2022. This webinar series is a tool to generate discussions within the evidence ecosystem in Africa about how capacities for EIDM should be developed. Continue the conversations started in this series on **LinkedIn**.

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

Welcome the **Population and Development Initiative (PDI)**, a youth and women led organisation working to mobilize and engage children, youth, and women in improving knowledge and skills for sustainable socioeconomic development, **Follow the PDI on Twitter** today!

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

Mark your calendars

23 February: Launch & certificate ceremony: practices of evidence-informed decision-making, **online**.

22 February: UEPOC Norway/Cochrane Norway/Cochrane South Africa Webinar: Factors that influence parents' views and practices regarding routine childhood vaccination, **online**

16 March: #EvidenceCapacities webinar 5, Pedagogies of capacity development for EIDM in Africa, **online**

As the first to join the **PACKS Africa's Corporate Evidence Leader – Mentorship Programme (CEL-MP)**, **Talitha Mpando** shares a **blog on developing the African evidence ecosystem through mentorship**. View all our blog posts **online** and share your work – submit your AEN blog **here** and feature your work to our 3000+ members in 2022!

Evidence Commission releases report and highlights path forward for relying on evidence

'Slow burn' societal challenges like educational achievement, health-system performance, and climate change have taken a backseat to the global pandemic, now entering its third year. But the **newly released Evidence Commission report** finds that decision-makers responding to present-day societal challenges and tomorrow's crises have an unprecedented opportunity to build on what has worked in using evidence before and during the pandemic. The report's 24 recommendations call for decisive action by multiple stakeholders to ensure evidence is consistently used to address societal challenges. The report will be available in seven languages – English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Portuguese and Spanish. Read the English report [here!](#)



The **Evidence Commission report** was recently launched. The 144-page report serves as a wake-up call and path forward for decision-makers, evidence intermediaries, and impact-oriented evidence producers.

Credit: Global Commission on Evidence

INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

In a recent London School of Economics Impact blog, Adam Oliver notes the criticism against behavioural scientists in [informing government's response and media reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic](#) in the UK. Oliver commends the overall work of behavioural scientists and the role they can play in helping policy-makers manage a global pandemic. He does caution against the use of their advice in matters beyond their scope of certainty, such as the assessment of policy effectiveness in a pandemic.

In an effort to ensure wide dissemination of the recently published Evidence Commission report, Professor David Halpern has penned a summary blog post for the Behavioural Insights team. Eliciting [summarized key findings of the Global Commission on Evidence report](#), the blog highlights the need for embedded evaluation and learning processes to determine the effective use of evidence.

In a [blog for the Flora and William Hewlett Foundation](#), author, [Norma Altshuler](#) shares notable insights of the good work in the field of responsive, decision-focused evidence for decision makers globally, by emerging organisations. Citing the work of evidence producers from Africa and abroad, Norma explains the importance of responsive, decision-focused evidence on policymakers' ability to improve people's lives, she also shared a [tweet thread](#) engaging followers on her blog reflections.

Hot off the press

Farrell et al: 'What Counts' as Research? Comparing Policy Guidelines to the Evidence Education Leaders Report as Useful'

Qureshi et al: 'Intersectionality and developing evidence-based policy'

Stewart et al: 'Lessons from working across fields to develop a framework for informed choices'

Opportunities

- Enrol for the [Practices of Evidence-Informed Decision-Making short learning programme](#) offered at the [Africa Centre for Evidence](#). Application deadline: 14 Mar 2022.
- The [Cochrane South Africa Bursary](#) is open to candidates from [sub-Saharan African countries](#) for an online course on how to develop a systematic review protocol: An introduction to Cochrane methodology. [Apply](#) by 28 Feb 2022.
- Call for Participation: [Cochrane SA Training Needs Assessment](#). [Complete the survey](#) about your current and future training needs to inform the training events offered by Cochrane SA; closes 28 Feb 2022.
- [Call for Applications](#): Integrity Action (Kenya) seeks to [appoint researchers](#) to support the Yetu Initiative. Send proposal applications by 13 Mar 2022.