

Systems level change for better evidence-use

A recent [nature article advocates for better systems to turn evidence into action](#). It focuses on how the world's system for producing, synthesizing, communicating, and using evidence for decision-making can improve to produce rigorous evidence quickly to inform decisions and curb the vast spread of misinformation. Noting recommendations from the [Global Evidence Commission Report](#), low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are challenged to be pragmatic in their approach to action global calls. The article cites the Center for Rapid Evidence Synthesis (ACRES) in Uganda and Veridas, a Latin American evidence hub, as leading examples of how LMICs can provide timely evidence that policy-makers need, appropriate to its systems of governance.



Responding to misinformation with evidence Misinformation – such as the claim that hydroxychloroquine can prevent COVID-19 – has flourished during the pandemic. Responsive evidence systems are one way to counter the scourge.

Photo Credit: Alamy / Nature

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A recent [Results for Development blog post](#) explores Ghana's vaccine program and how COVID-19 has affected the country's ability to procure routine vaccines. Enjoying success in building a strong system for immunization of routine vaccines over the years, the post showcases an enviable record in immunization coverage that has helped reduce infant mortality and the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles to date.

The [Ghana Center for Democratic Development \(CDD-Ghana\)](#) is taking bold steps to [strengthen Ghana's data ecosystem to support evidence-based policy-making](#). Recently, the center organised a two-day national multi-stakeholder forum – entitled 'Institutionalizing evidence use in government: lessons from practice' – to explore opportunities and mechanisms for a framework for inter-agency collaboration in standardising evidence-use in policy-making and development.

Member voting for the [Africa Evidence Leadership Award \(AELA\)](#) is opening for one week only! Watch your inbox from 22 March for your unique link and cast your vote by 1 April. Follow the [#AENis10 vlog series](#) on Twitter for more!

We celebrate [Nain Mirabel Yuh](#), a project coordinator at Effective Basic Services Africa ([eBASE Africa](#)) who is the [winner of World Pulse's Digital Changemaker of 2022](#). This honour comes in recognition of her work to promote respect of rights and needs of persons with disabilities and their inclusion in evidence-informed decision-making.

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

Welcome to the [Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development!](#) This centre works in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia to design and implement people-centred and evidence-based strategies for promoting peaceful, inclusive and resilient societies.

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

Mark your calendars

22 – 25 March: The Centre of Excellence for Development Impact and Learning 2022 conference: [Strengthening evidence use during the pandemic and beyond, online](#)

24 March: International Science Council webinar: [Inclusion and participation of women in global science organizations, online](#)

30 May - 03 June: [#gLOCAL Evaluation Week 2022, online](#)

Catchup on the [#EvidenceCapacities](#) webinars blog series by reading the 'Exploring relationships and partnerships for enhancing capacities for EIDM in Africa' blog post written by Charity Chisoro. View all our blog posts [online](#) and share your work by submitting your AEN blog [here](#).

Using evidence in a post-pandemic world

A recent article on *The Conversation* shares advice to tackle ignorance about evidence during and after the COVID-19 pandemic by Professor John Lavis, Canada Research Chair in Evidence-Informed Health Systems at McMaster University. Lavis states claims some decision-making missteps are due to ignorance about how to use evidence to inform decision-making. He advises policy-makers to focus on evidence emerging from living evidence syntheses as opposed to chasing the latest studies. He also cautions against only accepting the personal opinions of high-profile experts and instead encourages decision-makers to seek out experts who can back up their statements with a description of how they identified, assessed, and interpreted the evidence.



The Global Evidence Commission's Professor John Lavis, and Canada Research Chair in Evidence-Informed Health Systems has over 25 years working with governments in evidence-informed decision-making.

Credit: Global Commission on Evidence

INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

The European Commission recently launched the Joint Research Centre (JRC) report, entitled 'Values and identities – a policymaker's guide'. The report boasts co-creation between academics and policy-makers, scientific experts, and policy practitioners, and representatives from international and civil society organisations. The work aims to support policy-makers in understanding and interpreting value orientations and social identities that are relevant to policy-making.

A recent London School of Economics blog post, based on a study focused on the unintended consequences of the pandemic on non-COVID-19 research activities, examines which researchers have been most affected by a shift in research priorities from ongoing, non-COVID research projects. The post also explores how this has impacted different types of universities and what policies may be required to remediate the disruption.

Cochrane and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have officially worked together for over 10 years. This year, their partnership was renewed with a new joint plan of work for the next three years at WHO's Executive Board meeting. This partnership has enabled Cochrane to join and make statements at key WHO meetings (including the World Health Assembly), acting as a non-voting participant to advocate for evidence-informed health policies. The relationship with WHO is credited to the efforts of the many members of the Cochrane community.

Hot off the press

Lwamba et al: 'Strengthening women's empowerment and gender equality in fragile contexts towards peaceful and inclusive societies: A systematic review and meta-analysis'

Kuchenmüller et al: 'Domains and processes for institutionalizing evidence-informed health policy-making: a critical interpretive synthesis'

Opportunities

- Call for expressions of interest to evaluate the 'Leading Integrated Research for Agenda 2030 in Africa' funding programme. Submit by 22 March 2022.
- The United Nations Children's Fund, Communications unit at the Office of Research – Innocenti, Florence Italy seeks to appoint a roster of individual contractors/consultants. Apply by 31 March 2022.
- Covidence Global Scholarship Program 2022 applications are open to PhD and master's students until 31 March 2022.
- Call for proposals: #gLOCAL Evaluation Week 2022. Deadline is 6 April 2022.
- Christian aid seeks to fill two positions: Head of Programme Policy, Research & Learning by 31 March 2022 and Evidence and Impact Advisor by 4 April 2022.