

Egypt Impact Lab to improve lives through evidence

Under a new collaboration, the [Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab \(J-PAL\)](#) and [Egypt's Ministry of Planning and Economic Development](#) have launched a new initiative called the [Egypt Impact Lab](#). The lab's research and policy work will revolve around top government priorities, particularly poverty alleviation through evidence-informed decision-making, as currently “the Government of Egypt is embarking on many major poverty reduction and human development initiatives,” noted Alison Fahey, executive director of J-PAL MENA. By building a culture that uses evidence to inform decisions across government, the Egypt Impact Lab aims to build partners' capacity to use evidence in programme design and delivery.



J-PAL and Egypt's Ministry of Planning and Economic Development launch the Egypt Impact Lab to build a culture that uses evidence to inform decisions across government.

Photo Credit: [Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab \(J-PAL\)](#)

The [Africa Centre for Evidence](#), who acts as the secretariat to the Africa Evidence Network (AEN), has won a team award for [engaged scholarship of a research team award](#). The team led by AEN chairperson Professor Ruth Stewart received recognition for their commitment to and participation in partnerships and diversity by Universities South Africa and the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa.

Cochrane received a grant [to enhance evidence-informed guideline recommendations](#) for newborn and young child health in three sub-Saharan African countries, under the Global Evidence, Local Adaptation project. The project aims to maximise the impact of evidence for poverty-related diseases by increasing the capacity of decision-makers and researchers to use global research to develop locally relevant guidelines for newborn and child health.

The winners of the [Africa Evidence Leadership Award \(AELA\) 2022](#) were announced this month; thank you to all AEN members who voted! [Read more about the winners and runners-up of the AELA 2022](#) and follow the [#AENis10 vlog series](#) on Twitter for more!

[IDinsight](#) recently announced the new appointment of Sarah Lucas as a Director to oversee the organization's Data on Demand (DoD) initiative, building on systems developed over the last four years to generate rapid-turnaround and representative survey data in India. DoD is now expanding to several African countries.

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

Welcome to the [National Data Management Center for Health \(NDMC\)](#) of the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI). This organisation works to ensure evidence-use for decision-making by the Federal Ministry of Health and other relevant stakeholders at all levels of government in Ethiopia.

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

Mark your calendars

21 April: Nature - How to manage press coverage of your science, [online](#)

28 April: [Afrihealth 2022 World Malaria Day Conference](#) - advance equity, build resilience, end malaria - your effort counts, [online](#)

26 April: [ICSTI Exchanges: Knowledge representation and data visualization](#), [online](#).

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

The [#EvidenceCapacities webinar](#) blog series shares its fifth post. Read this month's post: Charity Chisoro's take on '[Pedagogies for EIDM capacity development in Africa](#)'. View all our blog posts [online](#) and share your work by submitting your AEN blog post [here](#).

Strengthening evidence-use capacities for universities

The Strengthening Endogenous Capacities of Least Developed Countries to Access Finance for Climate Change Adaptation project was launched last month. Led by **START International** in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the **Least Developed Countries' University Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC)**, the project aims to **strengthen the capacities of universities in least-developed countries (LDCs) to more effectively advise their governments on implementing climate change adaptation measures** that can lead to more fully accessing international climate finance.



START launches new project which aims to undertake a series of actions to strengthen capacities for universities to engage governments on climate adaptation projects.

Credit: START

INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

A recent London School of Economics article asserts that **social science research is outperforming other fields of research in terms of policy impact**. By tracking policy impacts, it is possible to produce more nuanced views of research impact outside of the dominant Anglophone research context; standard citation indicators reveal only the strength of a researcher's influence within academia.

According to a **new briefing by CHEX**, statutory organisations and funders are encouraged to confront their old ways of working with and thinking about evidence so they can better utilize evidence from communities, the third sector, and community organisations. CHEX draws from conversations with a wide range of people and perspectives on evidence to outline how this system level change can be achieved.

IDinsight shares a blog on their **research to estimate how much value evidence creation adds to development partners'** limited resources, helping them allocate them more efficiently. They have been exploring ways to thoughtfully answer this question as part of their Value of Information (VoI) work to improve how development sector resources are allocated to creating evidence. As they continue in their research work, they are inviting stakeholders in the evidence ecosystem to connect with them via zack.devlinfoltz@idinsight.org.

Hot off the press

Atkinson et al: 'How did UK policymaking in the COVID-19 response use science? Evidence from scientific advisers'

Jessani et al: 'Advocacy, activism, and lobbying: How variations in interpretation affects ability for academia to engage with public policy'

Opportunities

- The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Headquarters **seeks to appoint a communications expert**. The deadline for applications is 26 April 2022.
- Applications open for researchers in Africa to enrol in the **Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) Summer School on Development Methodologies** by 30 April 2022.
- The #gLOCAL Evaluation Week 2022 call for proposals has been **EXTENDED to 22 April 2022**
- "Science advice under pressure" conference, 27-28 April 2022. **Register for side events**
- Integrity Action is looking for a **consultancy to conduct a mid-term Evaluation** from Sept 2022 - Feb 2023; application deadline: 12 May 2022.