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Successful partnerships: UNICEF’s scale-up
In a recent blog, Sobhan McDonough, Lilian Lehmann, and Jeffery McManus shared a success story of the embedded learning partnership, explaining how UNICEF Kenya has made use of evidence from IDinsight to improve their integrated sanitation and nutrition programme. In response to the challenge of child deaths linked to undernutrition and diarrhoea in Kenya, UNICEF and the Kitui County Public Health Office came up with a solution by designing a programme called SanNut which combines sanitation as well as nutrition programmes for caregivers. After evaluation of the programme, IDinsight found that SanNut had an overall positive influence on caregiver knowledge and practices.

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Evidence events
9-12 July: 2nd Africa Evidence to Action Conference, Accra, Ghana.
2-13 September: 2019 annual Development Training Programme in Africa (DETPA), Gauteng, South Africa.
22-26 October: Uganda Management Institute’s 2nd International Conference, Kampala, Uganda.

In this month’s blog – Mapula Tshangela – the 2019 winner of the Africa Evidence Leadership Award shares how others have shaped her contribution to the evidence-informed decision-making field. View all blog posts online and use the Network to share your view – submit your AEN blog here.
Danger of single studies in policy-making
In a recent blog post, executive director of the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) Emmanuel Jimenez highlights the dangers of using single studies to inform policy. Sharing important lessons about the significance of endorsing research transparency as well as replications, Jimenez also points out that if the available evidence is not enough to synthesise, it is critical to produce more evidence. Jimenez flags that policy decisions are dependent on more than just the available evidence. He cites the public disagreements in the Philippines where researchers and senior officials depended on the results of one study to introduce a vaccine into that country.

Are literature reviews a thing of the past? Gorgi Krlev thinks so. In the latest London School of Economics and Political Science Impact blog, the author suggests replacing literature reviews with dynamic knowledge maps that display the connection between new research and current literature.

A new working paper suggests that women usually score lower than men on grant proposals based on specific words they use. To prevent gender biases when evaluating grant proposals, applicants do not have to change their writing style but proposal reviewers should be carefully chosen and trained, argues Annette Brown, editorial leader of R&E Search for Evidence.

James Georgalakis, director of communications and impact at the Institute of Development Studies, points out that the researchers based at international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) should be given more credit for displaying exceptional research capacity. He recommends that academic institutions should effectively collaborate with these types of institutions to produce excellent research and improve evidence-use for development.

Evidence from academia
Maleka et al: ‘Research collaboration on community health worker programmes in low-income countries: an analysis of authorship teams and networks’
Wieringa et al: ‘Decision aids that facilitate elements of shared decision making in chronic illnesses: a systematic review’

Announcements
▪ Apply now: Masters’ in Biostatistics in 2020 at Stellenbosch University.
▪ Do you want to study full time in 2020? Apply for Master’s or PhD funding from National Research Foundation.
▪ The Africa Centre for Evidence welcomes another intern from the McMaster Health Forum in Canada.
▪ Vacancy at the United Nations University: apply now!