

PASGR event strengthens the African evidence landscape

The **Partnership for African Social and Governance Research** hosted its **international convening conference** this month in Nairobi, Kenya. The event brought together African policy-makers, researchers, and practitioners from across the evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) ecosystem to explore concrete experiences and challenges of EIDM work in Africa. Delegates at the event discussed the kind of relationships and engagements between evidence producers and users that most facilitate research-uptake, the kind of EIDM advocacy strategies that best support effective EIDM, and the kind of timeframes needed to establish strong rapport between various EIDM stakeholders.



From strength to strength Participants at the international convening conference of PASGR explore concrete examples of African evidence-informed decision-making.

Photo: PASGR.ORG

The **Africa Centre for Evidence** (ACE) has published its 2018 **annual report**, which takes reader's through the work done in the centre to achieve its mission of contributing the reduction of poverty and inequality in South Africa and Africa. Hosting a more diverse and integrated Evidence 2018 is listed as one of ACE's key achievements for 2018; the event attracted 468 participants from 52 countries.

In a recent **blog post**, Daniel Stein – chief economist of **IDinsight** – highlights the risks of making decisions in the absence of evidence. He draws on lessons learnt from a project amongst smallholder farmers in western Kenya, emphasising the importance of evidence-informed decision-making.

To support the systematic use of evidence in policy-making in Africa, the **African Institute for Policy Development** and the **African Academy for Sciences** have introduced a two-year **Evidence Leaders in Africa programme**. The programme aims to improve evidence-collection and free researchers to produce and use evidence relevant to decision-making.

Sarah Adwoa Sarfo, Deputy Majority Leader of Parliament of Ghana, has encouraged Parliament to make use of high quality evidence in **decision-making** to ensure good policies are implemented. She further stated that the decision-making process will be more effective if parliamentarians use experiential evidence as opposed to relying on public opinion.

Putting the spotlight on...

...a new member! Ms Gloria Anderson joins the AEN from the **Tanzania Enlightenment Development Innovations** in Dar es Salaam so that she can “be part of the EIDM community that works together to bring up the transformation and development of the African Continent”.

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

Evidence events

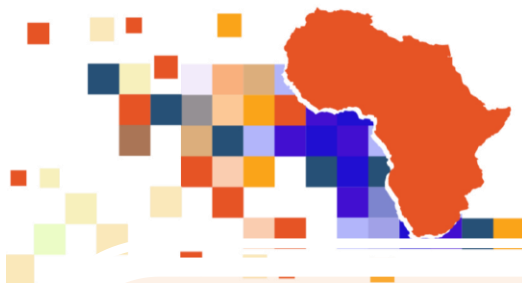
29 May-3 June: [2019 PEP Annual Conference 16th General Meeting](#), Cape Town, South Africa.

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.

21-25 October: [7th Biennial SAMEA Conference](#), Johannesburg, South Africa.

May's **blog** is by the team at **eBASE Africa** and focusses on training given to education and health policy-makers in Cameroon on systematic reviews. View all blog posts **online** and use the Network to share your work – submit your AEN blog **here**.



Africa Evidence Network

NEWSLETTER || May 2019

AEN member celebrated in Cochrane's 30-under-30

Cameroonian citizen Ndi-Euphrasia Ebai-Atuh is **being recognised** as part of the **Cochrane Collaboration's** 30-under-30 series, which aims to recognise the work done in Cochrane by a new generation of people passionate about 'putting trusted evidence at the heart of health decisions'. Within Cochrane Ebai-Atuh works as a consumer peer reviewer. When asked what Cochrane could do differently, Ebai-Atuh encouraged the collaboration to open its Governing Board elections to representatives from Africa and Asia. Of her plans, Ebai-Atuh says "I hope to create networks through which I could effectively forge ahead...consumer-informed decision-making for better health care."



Advocating for consumer rights in Africa
Ndi-Euphrasia Ebai-Atuh has been featured as one of Cochrane's 30-under-30.

Photo: COCHRANE

INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Noah Smith argues in a recent **article** that policy-makers struggle to make informed decisions in real time mainly because evidence does not move as fast as events. Smith points out that there are instances when policy-makers face challenges such as insufficient compelling evidence and political biases in the process of evidence-based policy-making.

An **evidence-use brief** produced by the **International Initiative for Impact Evaluation** shows how evidence played a significant role in tackling ultra-poverty in Malawi. It has been shown that cash transfer programmes, like the Malawi Social Cash Transfer Programme, have had several positive impacts. However, policy-makers seem to have reservations about using these programmes.

In an **article** for the **Alliance for Useful Evidence**, Kuranda Morgan and Charlotte Kincaid share the lessons from the United States' Evidence Act, introduced to embed and organise the way in which evidence is used in decision-making. The Act promotes partnership and sharing of evidence amongst the key evidence stakeholders. The authors argue how crucial it is to inspire teams' ownership over the creation of and engagement with evidence, as a sense of ownership improves the evidence culture within an organisation.

Evidence from academia

Dodd et al: 'Strengthening and measuring research impact in global health: lessons from applying the FAIT framework'

Li et al: 'Old is not always better: evidence from five randomised experiments in rural primary schools in China'

Williamson et al: 'How are evidence generation partnerships between researchers and policy-makers enacted in practice? A qualitative interview study'

Announcements

- Apply before 31 May for a **3ie bursary** to attend the Evidence to Action Conference.
- Online registrations are open for the **Rural Health Conference**: apply now!
- The Africa Centre for Evidence welcomes an **intern** from the McMaster Health Forum in Canada.
- **Data analyst vacancy** at the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development.