

### VakaYiko small grants scheme: Call for applications

VakaYiko is one of five projects funded under the Building Capacity to Use Research Evidence (BCURE) initiative funded by DFID over three years. The consortium this month launched the

**VakaYiko small grants scheme** which aims to support practitioners in low and middle income countries to build capacity for research use.

The call is targeted at projects that enhance our understanding of how policy makers can be supported, through practical measures, to make more effective use of evidence. Deadline for applications is 30 April 2014.

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The Development Research Uptake in Sub-Saharan Africa (DRUSSA) project recently met at a **conference in Cape Town** to discuss lessons learned at halfway point of the project's activities. Highlights include the release of the results of the 2014 benchmarking survey, which finds that African universities are **gradually introducing new mechanisms** to encourage the uptake of research by key stakeholders.

On the occasion of JPAL's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, South African Minister in the Presidency for National Planning, Trevor Manuel participated in a **panel discussion** on evidence-based policy in government.

The Regional Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results for Anglophone Africa (CLEAR-AA) released the **findings of a study** on demand and supply of evaluation/evaluative research in a selection of Sub-Saharan African countries.

The 6<sup>th</sup> **Supporting the Use of Research Evidence for Policy in African Health Systems** (SURE) Workshop & Annual Meeting took place from 10-14 March in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, focusing on SURE's role in promoting the use of evidence in policy-making.

**IDRC Call for Proposals:** Health Policy and Research Organizations. The Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa programme is launching a call for proposals for the selection of Health Policy and Research

### Upcoming events

28 April-28 July: [Online course on Methods for Research Synthesis: from meta-analysis to meta-ethnography](#)

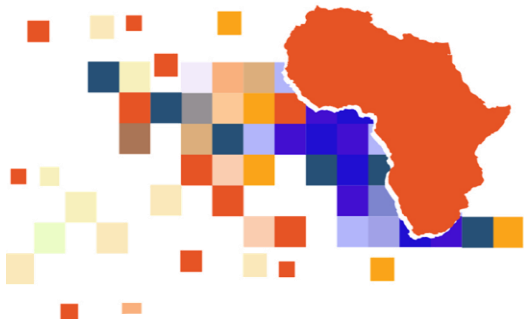
14-15 May: The [EIPPEE Conference 2014](#) centers around 'Finding a way... to facilitate the better use of research in education'

September: The 2014 [Cochrane colloquium](#) will focus on 'Evidence-Informed Public Health: Opportunities and Challenges'.

### Announcements

- The African Evidence Network is now tweeting! Please follow us @Africa\_Evidence
- Preparations are underway for the 1st Africa Evidence Network Colloquium from the 25<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014 in Johannesburg – further details to follow in upcoming newsletters.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) released its quarterly '**Evaluation Matters**' newsletter regarding intractable evidence on the importance of gender equity.



### Evidence-based deliberation and evidence-informed policy development Round Table:

AEN members recently presented at an HSRC funded Round Table on evidence and policy in South Africa. Dr Choge presented the findings of a landscape review, synthesizing how different role players outside of government are working to increase the usefulness and use of evidence in decision-making. In addition, Mr Otieno (*see picture*) discussed with the participants what kind of evidence is required to assist programme monitoring & evaluation.



### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### Ten Years of Development Effectiveness

On the occasion of **JPAL's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary** a renewed debate around the **virtue of RCTs** in development has emerged (see also **here & here**). Pointers include the need to consider comparing cost-effectiveness across **contexts**, and whether RCTs have extended past a **marginal** role in development.

#### World Bank thoughts on evidence uptake

A number of recent posts on the World Bank impact evaluation site consider how we can improve the **uptake** of evidence in international development to inform policy **implementation**.

#### DFID releases new **HowToNote** on assessing strength of evidence

The **How to Note** aims to support the use of evidence by providing guidance on the appraisal of individual studies as well as the assessment of the strength of a body of evidence.

### Evidence from academia

#### New journal **article**:

'A practical and systematic approach to organisational capacity strengthening for research in the health sector in Africa'

#### New journal **article**:

'Evaluation of the international forum on evidence informed health policymaking'

**Special issue** of the Canadian Journal of International Development: 'Measuring African development: Past and Present'

**New issue** of Journal of Development Effectiveness is available

Nancy Birdsall calls on the **Aid World** to '**Drop Capacity Building**' citing the need to move from individual's 'capacity' to organizational 'capability'.

*The Africa Evidence Network wishes everyone a Happy Easter!*

Please contact Hazel ([hazelz@uj.ac.za](mailto:hazelz@uj.ac.za)) for questions and further information