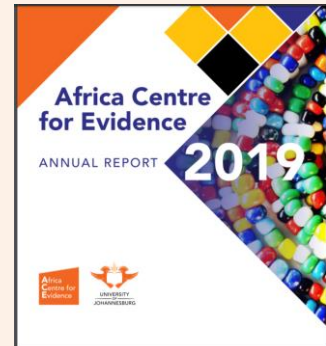




Working to reduce poverty in Africa – the year that was

The **Africa Centre for Evidence (ACE)** has published its **2019 annual report** that highlights its commitment to contributing towards reducing poverty and inequality in South Africa through increasing the use of research evidence. One of ACE's greatest achievements for 2019 is the potential that it has built to support the response to the COVID-19 pandemic facing the world in 2020 at both local and global levels. Amongst the top ten accomplishments was hosting the first-ever virtual Africa Evidence Week, which received tremendous attention from its stakeholders on social media. In 2019, the **Africa Evidence Network** membership grew with substantial pan-African representation.



Africa Centre for Evidence annual report ACE contributes to the reduction of poverty and inequality in Africa through increasing evidence-use
Photo: Africa Centre for Evidence (ACE)

The **Africa Evidence Network** secretariat is currently updating its online database of available resources, tools, guides, and opportunities for capacity-building in evidence-informed decision-making in Africa. Kindly send the resources to Charity Chisoro on charityc@uj.ac.za. In sending us this information, you are agreeing that we can share the information within our online database.

In a recent **blog post** by Femke Brandt of **Beneficial Technologies**, we learn about how the COVID-19 pandemic has shifted people's boundaries. The author highlights the importance of dealing with these ever-changing boundaries and evaluating the effectiveness thereof, then coming up with solutions for coping with the new realities.

John Muchangi, a science editor, argues in one of his latest **articles** that Kenya's fight against COVID-19 will be successful if it is guided by evidence-informed decision-making and 'depoliticised' disease control measures. The experts encouraged everyone to comply with all public health measures to reduce the number of new cases in the country.

Actions pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable (**ACED**) recently celebrated its 10th anniversary and published its five-year **strategic document**. Amongst other deliverables, ACED's strategy focuses on the creation, distribution, and implementation of evidence to inform policies and decisions in the food security sector and the protection of natural capital.

Putting the spotlight on...

... **a new member!** Sidney Muchemwa joined the AEN to be "an advocate for inclusive development through fostering a collaborative approach in solving societal health challenges." Want to spotlight you or your organisation? **Let us know** and you could be featured.

Mark your calendars

21 July: [Centre for rapid evidence synthesis webinar](#), **online**.

23 July: [Evidence Synthesis Ireland webinar](#), **online**.

30 July: [South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association webinar](#), **online**.

21-25 September: [EVIDENCE 2020 ONLINE](#), **online**.

7-8 December: [Coronavirus webinar](#), **online**.

This month, we feature 5 blog posts. **Two** are from **South Africa**, one from **Kenya**, one from **Nigeria** and one from **Zimbabwe**.

View all blog posts **online** and use the Network to share your work – submit your AEN blog **here**.

Curbing health misinformation on WhatsApp

Reliable public health information is critical to curbing the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, with fact-checking organisations having a vital role to play in countering misinformation on the continent. But tackling misinformation on messaging apps like WhatsApp remains tricky because of end-to-end encryption, among other challenges. Funded by the [Konrad Adenauer Stiftung](#), [Africa Check](#) and the [Africa Centre for Evidence](#) will be researching the most effective strategies to fight health misinformation on WhatsApp during a pandemic. Early this month, 15 participants gathered online in a commencement stakeholder engagement workshop to share key challenges they face when fact-checking on WhatsApp.



Photo: ARUN SANKAR / AFP

Africa Check and the Africa Centre for Evidence collaborate Reliable public health information is critical to curbing the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation ([UNESCO](#)) recently published a global education monitoring [report](#) that highlights the significance of inclusion in education, since education is a universal right. The main proposal from the report is for all the education stakeholders to broaden their knowledge of comprehensive education to incorporate all learners, irrespective of their individuality, upbringing, or capacity.

[Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus](#), the director-general of the [World Health Organisation](#), shares some [advice](#) on how to fight the COVID-19 pandemic based on the lessons of how the Democratic Republic of Congo managed to beat Ebola. He mentions that for governments to be successful in containing the coronavirus, they should not only depend on science and data to inform decisions but include various communities also.

[Michael Head](#), a researcher focusing on infectious diseases, points out in a recent [article](#) that the COVID-19 pandemic is a global issue that affects everyone, which can only be overcome by the introduction of a vaccine. With the huge negative impact that the coronavirus has on everyday health services, he underscores the necessity of an accurate universal picture to fight it effectively.

Hot off the press

[Dako-Gyeke et al](#): 'Capacity building for implementation research: a methodology for advancing health research and practice'

[El-Jardali et al](#): 'Amplifying the role of knowledge translation platforms in the COVID-19 pandemic response'

[Gough et al](#): 'Evidence Synthesis International (ESI): Position Statement'

[Jessani et al](#): 'Evidence for decisions in the time of COVID-19: Eyes on Africa'

Opportunities

- Applications for full-time [PhD scholarships](#) open until 31 July.
- Call for [project proposals](#) on climate change in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- [Evidence Frontiers](#) is hiring: the deadline for [applications](#) is 31 July.
- The closing date for [vacancies](#) at the [Nordic Africa Institute](#) is 14 August.
- The [Rhodes Trust](#) is now accepting applications for the [Rhodes scholarships](#).