

Science Advice has a role in policy-making

Last month, the [Ethiopian Academy of Sciences](#) and the [International Network for Government Science Advice](#), with support from the [International Development Research Centre](#), designed a series of [science advice workshops](#) for policy-makers and scientists in Ethiopia in order to comprehend, acknowledge and upskill participants in how to facilitate evidence-informed policy-making. Nasreen Jessani, head of strategy for the [Africa Evidence Network](#) at the [Africa Centre for Evidence](#) spoke about the political and technical complexities of science advice and its dependence upon relationships and trust.



Science advice workshops Delegates at the workshops that discussed the role of science advice in enhancing capacities

Photo: International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA)

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Dr Mamudu Akudugu, the Deputy Director of the [Institute of Interdisciplinary Research and Consultancy Service](#), recommends the use of [evidence-based policies](#) to accomplish inclusive development in the country. The [Ghana Inclusive Development Research Network](#) and the [United Nations Emergency Fund](#) are working together to promote research on inclusive development in Ghana.

Young women scientists from Africa are keen to be global leaders in science despite obstacles such as male dominance and societal barriers, says a [recent article](#) by [Ochieng Ogodo](#). Promoting women to become scientists can assist Africa in dealing with developmental issues, argues Ogodo.

The use of [informed decisions](#) is crucial to attain sustainable economic growth, and this prompted the World Bank to introduce two tools in Tanzania to promote this initiative. One of these tools is the [Survey of Well-being via Instant and Frequent Tracking \(SWIFT\)](#), which keeps track of World Bank's mission to end extreme poverty and enhance mutual success.

The [Zambian Statistics Agency](#) Interim Statistician General Mulenga Musepa pointed out that it is crucial to [strengthen accountability](#) and evidence-based policy-making in development planning, arguing that strengthened accountability would produce high quality development results. Musepa highlights the need for government to enhance its monitoring and evaluation structures.

Putting the spotlight on...

... an emerging organisation!

[Priority Cost-Effective Lessons for System Strengthening in South Africa \(PRICELESS SA\)](#) is a Southern African institution that provides economic evidence to enable prioritisation of health interventions. PRICELESS SA is responsible for research evidence that demonstrates how to enhance health and life expectancy in Africa. Want to spotlight you or your organisation? [Let us know](#) and you could be featured!

Mark your calendars

25-29 November: [Conference on Land Policy in Africa](#), Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

2-6 December: [Cochrane Santiago virtual conference](#), Online.

4-6 December: [Science Forum](#), Pretoria, South Africa.

21-25 September 2020: [Evidence 2020](#), Uganda.

Members from the [African Population and Health Research Center](#) write this month's [blog](#) on confronting the challenges in collecting and using data in Africa. View all blog posts [online](#) and use the Network to share your work – submit your AEN blog [here](#).

Education Endowment Foundation 2019 Global Partners Workshop

Dr Ben Goldacre gave a keynote address on the lessons learnt from other evidence ecosystems at the third **Global Partners Workshop** in London, which was hosted by the **Education Endowment Foundation (EEF)**. The two days comprised of networking opportunities, presentations, panel sessions and plenaries. Professor Ruth Stewart, Chair of the **Africa Evidence Network**, was part of a panel session on the future of evidence synthesis, which focused on the lessons that educational researchers acquired on how to carry out evidence synthesis, and how they can improve to ensure that evidence synthesis is usable by teachers.



EEF Global Partners Workshop Delegates at one of the panel sessions engaging in a robust discussion on the future of evidence synthesis

Photo: Education Endowment Foundation (EEF)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

It is important for researchers and governments to work together to ensure that policies are always informed by evidence, says **Gautam Patel** of **Abdul Jameel Latif Poverty Action Lab, South Asia** in his **latest article**. He shares four principles of collaboration which include facilitating personalised dialogue and a deep intelligence of local context.

In a recent **blog** post on ***From Poverty to Power***, Pierre Basimise Ngalishi Kanyege introduces, and highlights the risks of, the 'NGO-isation of academic research'. He argues that this shift in the loci of focus from an academic discipline has a few dangers, including the experience of research participants only sharing relevant information when receiving compensation. Kanyege argues that such practices can compromise the quality of research findings.

In Canada, a **new model** for healthcare promotes a shared decision-making approach which stimulates patient participation in health decisions. The approach is unique because it promotes indigenous values to ensure that patients receive the best treatment. In this model, there is collaboration amongst the healthcare providers and patients, where they use evidence-based mechanisms and approaches to make evidence-informed decisions about their own healthcare.

Hot off the press

Langlois et al: 'Embedding implementation research to enhance health policy and systems: a multi-country analysis from ten settings in Latin America and the Caribbean'

Verrecchia et al: 'Building operational public health capacity through collaborative networks of National Public Health Institutes'

Zomahoun et al: 'The pitfalls of scaling up evidence-based interventions in health'

Opportunities

- Apply: early career **researcher conference funding**
- **Call for applications:** 2020 Africa Science Leadership Programme
- Call for PhD applications open: **apply now**
- Save the date for **Evidence 2020** happening in Uganda.
- Apply: **research positions** available at Givewell