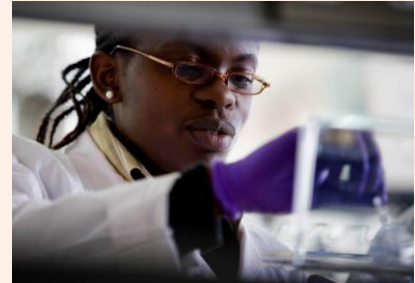




### How to level the playing field for science in the global South

In a recent [blog](#) celebrating [World Science Day](#), Nyovani Madise offers four broad recommendations to funders, scientists, research groups, and policy-makers in low- and middle-income countries to ensure that they 'level the playing field'. On [World Science Day](#), we celebrate the significant role of science in society and the need of community engagement. One of the ways for the playing field to be levelled is for communities to be involved and empowered through knowledge-sharing. Adding to this, she argues that research must be open access. Nyovani concludes by pointing out that [World Science Day](#) is a great opportunity to renew our commitment to shared scientific endeavour and to forge stronger partnerships for science, peace and development.



#### **Level the playing field for science in the global South**

World Science Day is an opportunity to forge stronger partnerships for science, peace and development.

Photo: African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)

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. Send your resources to Charity Chisoro on [charityc@uj.ac.za](mailto:charityc@uj.ac.za). In sending us this information, you are agreeing that we can share the information within our online database.

Do you have a success story about evidence-informed decision-making in action to [share](#) with the Africa Evidence Network secretariat? We're looking for examples where evidence made a difference in policy design, resulted in positive results after policy implementation, or strengthened an individual/organisation.

More than 400 East and West African evidence leaders made up of policy-makers, practitioners, researchers, and scientists committed to the idea of [promoting evidence-use](#) in decision-making during a recent two-day [virtual conference](#). The consensus was that research evidence is crucial for sustainable development.

Last month, during the [Transformative Innovative Policy Forum](#), numerous [academics and policy-makers](#) reached an agreement to transform innovation in South Africa. The delegates emphasised that science, technology, and innovation plays a significant role in strengthening development and enhancing the quality of life for people in Africa.

### Putting the spotlight on...

... **an amazing organisation!** Effective Basic Services – [eBASE Africa](#) is one of the star organisations that supported [EVIDENCE 2020 ONLINE](#). It seeks to improve livelihoods through innovation and best practices in basic services for underserved populations in Cameroon.

... **a new member!** We are also spotlighting the winner of the [EVIDENCE 2020 ONLINE](#) competition [Mr Rigobert Hanny Pambe](#) from [eBASE Africa](#) who won the competition with 105,500 points.

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

### Mark your calendars

**26 November:** [Optimizing Primary Health Care For Skilled Maternal Health Care in Rural Nigeria, online.](#)

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

Frejus Thoto writes the [blog](#) for this month, on rethinking who the right stakeholders are that need capacity-building for evidence-use. View all blog posts [online](#) and use the Network to share your work – submit your AEN blog [here](#).



**AFRICA  
EVIDENCE  
NETWORK**

*Only together can evidence-  
informed decision-making  
become reality.*

NEWSLETTER || November 2020

### Knowledge, evidence, and learning for development

The [K4D COVID-19 Evidence Search](#) is a new searchable interface which comprises the latest evidence and discourse on COVID-19. The resources are sourced from the Knowledge, Evidence and Learning for Development ([K4D website](#)) as well as [evidence summaries on COVID-19](#). This initiative supports the use of learning and evidence to improve the impact of development policy and programmes. The ultimate goal of K4D is to ensure that there are sufficient innovative ways to respond to ever-changing and complicated development problems. Together with evidence summaries, K4D creates rapid evidence responses on COVID-19 across a variety of development areas, which can be retrieved from the [K4D COVID-19 resource hub](#).



**K4D COVID-19 Evidence Search** A new searchable interface consists of the latest evidence and discourse on COVID-19.

Photo: Knowledge, Evidence and Learning for Development (K4D)

### INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

A [recent article](#) in [The Nation](#) reported that the [Pakistan Bureau of Statistics](#) (PBS) is developing Decision Support Systems and Data Dissemination Systems which will be responsible for empowering policy-makers to make evidence-based decisions. This is PBS' strategy to offer evidence-based data on the socio-economic influence of COVID-19 on people's well-being with information about employment and health, amongst others.

The [United Nations Children's Fund – Office of Research-Innocenti](#), in collaboration with [Campbell Collaboration](#), have developed an [evidence gap map](#) (EGM) focusing on the interventions for reducing violence against children in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The EGM offers a summary of the evidence that is available and identifies gaps in the evidence-base.

The [Centre of Excellence for Development Impact and Learning](#) hosted a [webinar](#) last month where they argued that the COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult to juggle politics, evidence, and uncertainty. The presenters also focused on how to evaluate research uptake and impact and provided information on how development projects can measure impact.

### Hot off the press

[Erasmus et al](#): 'Scoping the impact evaluation capacity in sub-Saharan Africa'

[Jessani et al](#): 'Academic incentives for enhancing faculty engagement with decision-makers—considerations and recommendations from one School of Public Health'

[Stewart et al](#): 'Evidence synthesis communities in low-income and middle-income countries and the COVID-19 response'

### Opportunities

- [Apply](#) for professional development and research 'knowledge associate' grants by 29 November.
- [Job vacancies](#) at the [African Institute for Development Policy](#): apply now!
- [Job opportunities](#) available at the [International Initiative for Impact Evaluation](#).
- [Submit your abstract](#) for the [Evidence Synthesis Hackathon](#) by 1 December.