



COVID-19: Working on plan B

While we wait for a vaccine, our only means of controlling COVID-19 is through Behavioural, Environmental, Social and Systems Interventions (BESSI). Yet, investment in these types of interventions has been a tiny fraction compared to pharmacological interventions. The **BESSI Collaboration** is seeking to address this imbalance. Led by Professors Paul Glasziou (Bond University, Australia), Susan Michie (University College London, UK), and Jeremy Grimshaw (University of Ottawa, Canada), the aim of BESSI is to bring together a global coalition of researchers, decision-makers, implementers, and funders to help reduce viral transmission to achieve zero COVID-19, reduce the likelihood and impact of future pandemics, and to help build back better. To learn more about BESSI, please sign up for our free [webinar series](#) or [reach out](#).



Learn more about the BESSI Collaboration It is a means of controlling COVID-19

Photo: The Behavioural, Environmental, Social and Systems Interventions (BESSI)

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. 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.

Dr Rodrigue Castro Gbedomon from **Actions pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable** provides several reasons why the concept of **evidence in policy-making** should be "Africanised." But what should be considered as evidence? Evidence must not only consist of facts, research, and evaluation results but also citizen views, principles, and traditional knowledge.

It is crucial for decision-makers in low- and middle-income countries to form partnerships and develop capacity to overcome the challenge of insufficient data in making evidence-based decisions about reopening during the pandemic, says **Catherine Cheney** in a [recent article](#).

Putting the spotlight on...

... an emerging organisation! **Scorecard Monitoring & Evaluation Limited** is a registered company in Kenya that offers specialised support to non-profit and profit-making organisations in research, projects management, and monitoring & evaluation. Want to spotlight yourself or your organisation? **Let us know** and you could be featured.

Mark your calendars

19-20 October: [HighEdWeb 2020 Annual Conference](#), **online**.

20 October: [World Evidence-Based Healthcare Day](#), **online**.

16-20 November: [Sense about Science Evidence Week](#), **online**.

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

Our **blog** this month is written by the AEN strategic manager, Dr Nasreen Jessani, and it focuses on the eight cross-cutting themes from **EVIDENCE 2020 ONLINE**. View all blog posts **online** and use the Network to share your work – submit your AEN blog [here](#).



Celebrating World Evidence-Based Healthcare Day

Today we celebrate the inaugural **World Evidence-Based Health Care Day**, a global celebration of agents of change who have worked to improve healthcare systems around the globe. Led by **eight global leaders in evidence-based healthcare (EBHC)**, including the AEN, the global evidence community has heeded the call to share their 'impact stories' of the global impact of evidence on health research, policy, practice and health outcomes. When viewed cumulatively, the **30+ impact stories** provide a rich insight into various approaches to EBHC, what has changed and how, the positive, contextual and challenging experiences and outcomes, as well as intended and unintended results from our work in EBHC. Visit the World Evidence-Based Health Care Day website to see the Twitter chats and other events happening.



World Evidence-Based Healthcare Day

This year, World EBHC Day celebrates the impact of researchers, academics, students, clinicians, consumers, patients and other agents of change.

Photo: World Evidence-Based Healthcare Day

INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

In a recent **article**, Sara Dube and Alex Sileo highlight that the COVID-19 pandemic has created an opportunity for increased collaboration among leaders to use evidence to advance the decision-making process, like using the available scarce resources efficiently. In the face of crisis, it is crucial for leaders to work in partnership with other colleagues in the national governments to promote the use of data and evidence for decisions.

Which is more important for the successful implementation of evidence-informed programs and practices: relationships or strategies? **Allison Metz** and others discuss this question in a **blog** where they argue that practitioners continue to mention the significance of trusting relationships in promoting evidence-use. However, this notion is not strongly or frequently articulated in most of the publications.

In a **recent blog**, **Emily Hayter** shares key learning of the **International Network for Advancing Science and Policy (INASP)** as well as the path that they are taking in supporting evidence-use. The main focus of INASP's work is evidence-informed policy which reinforces the manner in which government agencies use evidence in policy-making. Since the demand for evidence is not only about individual skills, it is important for organisations to have a multi-dimensional view of evidence capacities and to be all-inclusive, writes Hayter.

Hot off the press

Gabbay et al: 'Uncovering the processes of knowledge transformation: the example of local evidence-informed policy-making in United Kingdom healthcare'

Garrity et al: 'Assessing how information is packaged in rapid reviews for policy-makers and other stakeholders: a cross-sectional study'

Lester et al: 'Evaluation of the performance and achievements of the WHO Evidence-informed Policy Network (EVIPNet) Europe'

Vicki et al: 'A narrative review of economic constructs in commonly used implementation and scale-up theories, frameworks and models'

Opportunities

- **Job opportunities** available at the **International Initiative for Impact Evaluation**.
- Save the date for the **EVIDENCE 2020 ONLINE** reflection webinar on 18 November from 14:00 to 15:15 hours (SAST).