Africa Evidence Week 2021 was designed as a virtual celebration of evidence-use in Africa. In this special edition of the Africa Evidence Network newsletter, we cover some of the highlights from the week.

**AFRICA EVIDENCE WEEK – VIDEOS**

As part of Africa Evidence Week 2021, the AEN continued the series of videos by emerging EIDM leaders called "Why did I fall in love with EIDM?" They interviewed twelve emerging EIDM leaders and this is what they said about.

- Akanyinene Obot, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria
- Caroline Dusabe, Save the Children, Rwanda
- Edward Kayongo, Centre for Rapid Evidence Synthesis, Uganda
- Eucharia Nwaichi, Port Harcourt University, Nigeria
- Gloria Anderson, Tanzania Enlightenment Development Innovations, Tanzania

**AFRICA EVIDENCE WEEK – TWITTER**

Twitter analytics for #AfricaEvidenceWeek2021

Highlight numbers for the weeks’* leading up to, including, and after Africa Evidence Week 2021.

- Tweets: 2,500
- Impressions: 6,000,000
- Contributors: 531

*Analytics collected for hashtag use from 1 August until 15 October 2021.

During Africa Evidence Week 2021, there were a total number of 399 participants from 15 different countries representing 91 organisations. Their engagements generated over 4 million organic impressions on Twitter over the five-day period of the Week. Some of our largest Twitter influencers included @poverty_action, @afidep, @kemri-kenya, and @frejusthoto.

**AFRICA EVIDENCE WEEK – CONVERSATION STARTERS**

The AEN secretariat worked to promote resources such as reports, policy briefs, and Twitter conversations – amongst other conversations starters – from other organisations during Africa Evidence Week 2021. Some of the conversation starters we shard included:

- The introduction of a new web-based platform to help facilitate bio-innovation for economic growth and social development in South Africa – see more...
- Resources by the Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) highlighting the use of evidence to support policy-making processes in Africa – see more...
- The UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti’s multiple resources under the Time to Teach project with the evidence community – see more...
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AFRICA EVIDENCE WEEK – BLOGS

During Africa Evidence Week 2021, the most popular way in which organisations participated was through blogs on evidence-informed decision-making: we promoted fifteen blogs in just five days!

Kirchuffs Atengble of PACKS Africa gave us a kick-start to the Week with a bog appreciating #AfricaEvidenceWeek as a regional platform to showcase evidence-use. Read more...

Clear AA researcher, Tebogo Fish introduced us to a ground-breaking evidence base for decision-making in Africa called AfrED. Read more...

IDinsight shared evidence findings on their blog, learning losses experienced in West Africa due to COVID-19. Read more...

AFRICA EVIDENCE WEEK – WEBINARS AND EVENTS

There was an amazing variety of webinars – some pre-recorded, others live – that covered various EIDM topics, and many in-country events that celebrated Africa’s EIDM. Organisations were responsible for hosting their webinars or events, with the AEN supporting them.

LIVE WEBINARS

- Strengthening and Promoting Education Data Systems and Utilization in Africa: Lessons from the Data Must Speak Global Initiative, hosted by the UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti
- Highlighting the Use of Evidence and Data to Inform Public Policy Changes in Kenya, hosted by Innovations for Poverty Action
- Taking Evidence to French Speakers in Middle Africa through the Africa Evidence Network, hosted by Effective Basic Service Africa
- Decisions informed by best evidence available for responding to societal challenges, hosted by the Global Commission on Evidence to Address Societal Challenges

PRE-RECORDED WEBINARS

- Evidence-informed policy-making experiences from Latin America by the Veredas Institute in Brazil
- Highlighting the use of evidence and data to inform public policy changes by the Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) in partnership with Kenya’s Micro and Small Enterprises Authority (MSEA)
- Trust in government report: public launch by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, South Africa.