



Working together to make
evidence-informed
decision-making a reality



What do we know about impact evaluation capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa?

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Background

- Long-held assumption that Africa has low levels of impact evaluation capacity
- Links to post-colonial deficit models of the Global South
- Yet increasing demand for evidence and impact evaluations in Africa
- Existing examples of high-quality impact evaluations conducted on the continent
 - E.g. J-PAL Africa

Background

- Objective to map impact evaluation **capacities** to see where capacities in SSA sit and could be supported
- Commissioned by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Impact evaluation (IE):

A type of evaluation design that assesses the changes that can be attributed to a particular intervention. It is based on models of cause and effect and requires a credible counterfactual (sometimes referred to as a control group or comparison group) to control for factors other than the intervention that might account for the observed change.

(Altshuler & Staats, 2019)

Methods

- Supported by an advisory group
- Data collection between July 2018 and May 2019
- Methods:
 - Semi-structured key stakeholder discussions
 - Online survey
 - Follow-up interviews
 - Desk research on impact evaluation training resources
 - Impact evaluation author search

Limitations:

We did not investigate the funding landscape

We did not investigate demand directly

Some judgements about who was 'local'

Not able to comment on capacity in North Africa

More detailed study on West Africa by WACIE

Question 1: Capacity to author IEs

- Impact evaluation practitioners not always incentivised to publish
- Conducted a detailed search of the Impact Evaluation Repository (IER)
- 1 718 impact evaluations on SSA published between 1990 and 2015
 - Of these 1 228 (71%) had no African authors with African affiliations
 - **Remaining 490 publications yielded 1 520 unique African researchers**
 - Only 210 (14%) of these 1 520 were first authors
 - Of the 490 publications, for 68 articles (14%) all the authors were African

Question 1: Capacity to author IEs (geography)

Country	World Bank country classification by income level	Number of Authors	Number of First Authors	% share of 1st authors
South Africa	Upper-middle income	307	54	17,6%
Kenya	Lower-middle income	210	24	11,4%
Uganda	Low income	161	31	19,3%
Tanzania	Low income	111	17	15,3%
Zambia	Lower-middle income	104	3	2,9%
Ghana	Lower-middle income	93	16	17,2%
Zimbabwe	Lower-middle income	86	8	9,3%
Burkina Faso	Low income	73	6	8,2%
Nigeria	Lower-middle income	62	14	22,6%
Ethiopia	Low income	50	14	28,0%
Malawi	Low income	49	5	10,2%
Mali	Low income	25	1	4,0%
Senegal	Lower-middle income	22	1	4,5%
DRC	Low income	20	1	5,0%
Rwanda	Low income	19	3	15,8%
Gambia	Low income	16	4	25,0%
Côte d'Ivoire	Lower-middle income	13	1	7,7%
Cameroon	Lower-middle income	12	3	25,0%
Mozambique	Low income	12	2	16,7%

Question 1: Capacity to author IEs (geography)

Bostwana	Upper-middle income	<div><div></div></div>	11		
Namibia	Upper-middle income	<div><div></div></div>	11		
Benin	Low income	<div><div></div></div>	11		
Togo	Low income	<div><div></div></div>	8		
Madagascar	Low income	<div><div></div></div>	7		
Sudan	Lower-middle income	<div><div></div></div>	5	1	20,0%
Guinea-Bissau	Low income	<div><div></div></div>	4	1	25,0%
Sierra Leone	Low income	<div><div></div></div>	4		
Niger	Low income	<div><div></div></div>	4		
Burundi	Low income	<div><div></div></div>	3		
Lesotho	Lower-middle income	<div><div></div></div>	2		
Eswatini	Lower-middle income	<div><div></div></div>	2		
Eritrea	Low income	<div><div></div></div>	1		
Gabon	Upper-middle income	<div><div></div></div>	1		
Liberia	Low income	<div><div></div></div>	1		

Question 1: Capacity to author IEs (geography)

- South Africa has most impact evaluation researchers (n=307), followed by Kenya (n=210), Uganda (n=161), Tanzania (n=111) and Zambia (n=104)
- Comparing region with first authors, East Africa had more first authors (n=89) than Southern Africa (n=72)
- South Africa has most authors overall and more first authors
- A number of researchers from West Africa were also first authors on publications (Ghana n=16; Nigeria n=14; Burkina Faso n=6; The Gambia n=4; Côte d'Ivoire n=1; Guinea-Bissau n=1; Mali n=1; Senegal n=1)

Question 1: Capacity to author IEs (geography)

Region	Number of countries	Number of authors	% share of 1 st authors
Southern Africa	10	591	12.18%
East Africa	7	555	16.04%
West Africa	14	337	13.06%
Central Africa	3	37	13.51%
Total	34	1 520	N/A

Question 1: Capacity to author IEs (institutions)

Institutions	Country	Number of authors
Makerere University	Uganda	66
South African Medical Research Council	South Africa	58
University of Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	53
University of the Witwatersrand	South Africa	52
University of Cape Town	South Africa	46
Kenya Medical Research Institute	Kenya	44
Ifakara Health Institute	Tanzania	30
University of Nairobi	Kenya	29
Centre National de Recherche et de Formation sur le Paludisme	Burkina Faso	22
Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)	South Africa	22
University of Bamako	Mali	20
National Institute for Medical Research	Tanzania	20

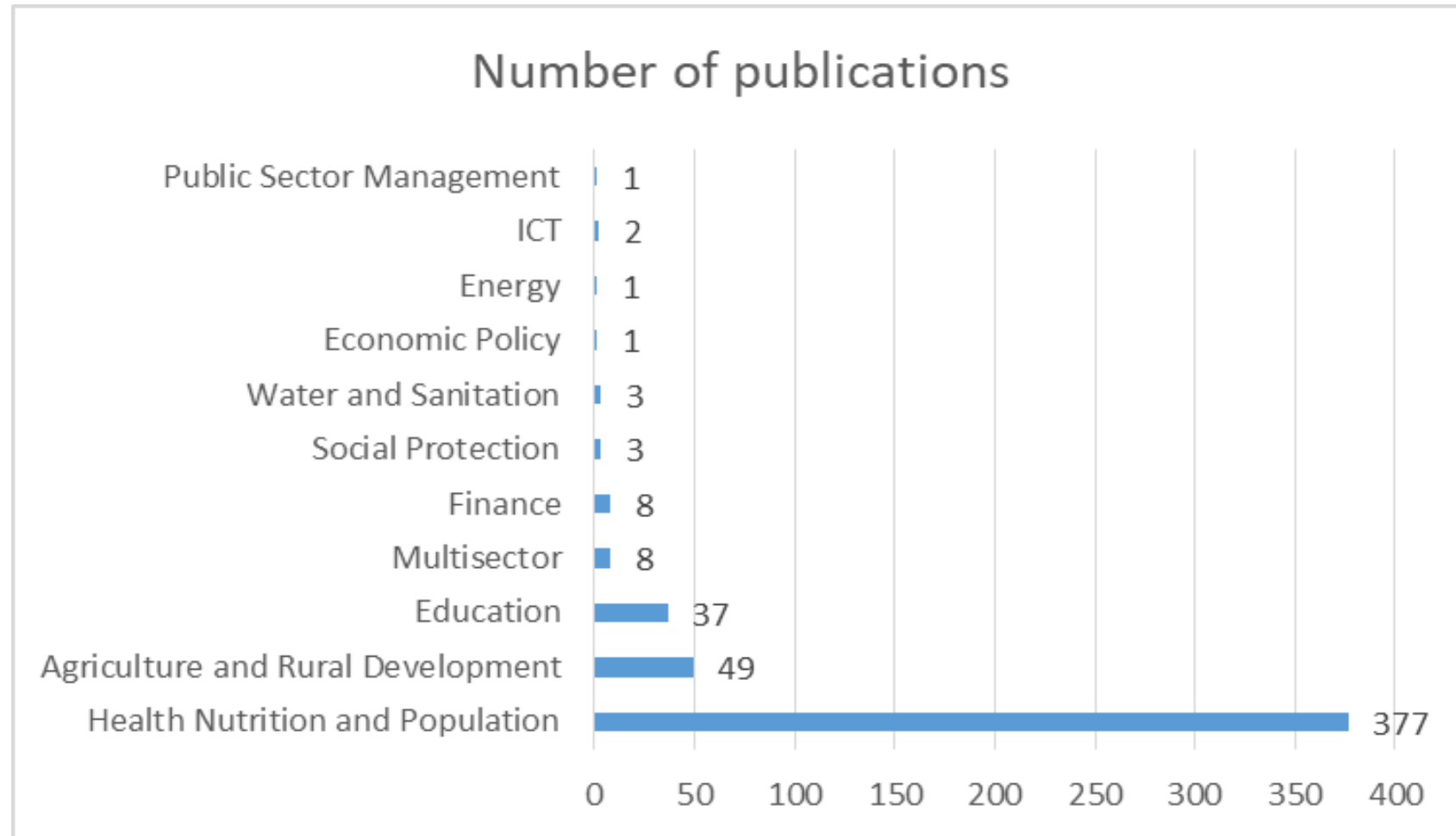
Question 1: Capacity to author IEs (institutions)

Institutions	Country	Number of authors
University of Malawi	Malawi	18
Centre Muraz	Burkina Faso	16
Muhimili University	Tanzania	16
Uganda Virus Research Institute	Uganda	15
University of Zambia	Zambia	15
University of Ghana	Ghana	13
Centre for the AIDS Program of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA)	South Africa	13
Centre for Infectious Disease Research	Zambia	13
Medical Research Council - LSHTM	Gambia	12
University Teaching Hospital	Zambia	12
Biomedical Research and Training Institute	Zimbabwe	11
Jimma University	Ethiopia	10
Moi University	Kenya	10
Infectious Diseases Research Collaboration	Uganda	10
Manhiça Health Research Center	Mozambique	9
School of Public Health, University of Kinshasa	DRC	8
Bandim Health Project, INDEPTH Network	Guinea-Bissau	8
Université Cheikh Anta DIOP de Dakar, Faculté de Médecine	Senegal	8
Unité de Formation et de Recherche Biosciences, Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny	Côte d'Ivoire	7
Haramaya University	Ethiopia	
Programme National de Lutte contre le VIH/Sida	Togo	

Question 1: Capacity to author IEs (institutions)

- Large amount of research capacity reside within schools of public health and health science faculties at university institutions
- Makerere University in Uganda had the greatest number of researchers (n=66) at an institution
- Four of the top 10 institutions with the most number of researchers were from South Africa

Question 1: Capacity to author IEs (sector)



Question 2: Who else has capacity to conduct IEs?

- Used an online survey to answer this question:
 - 353 responses
 - 63% of respondents were male, and 37% female
 - A total of 93.5% of respondents are currently based in Africa
 - 92.9% are citizens of an African country
- Sector:
 - 55% are based in the academic sector
 - 24% work for government
 - 32% work for Think Tanks and NGOs
- A total of 77.3% of respondents have been involved in conducting impact evaluations, providing a substantial basis for us to draw from

Question 2: Who else has capacity to conduct IE?

Institutional affiliations of survey respondents who had conducted 10 or more IEs

Country of work	Organisational affiliation
Benin	Centre d'Expertise en Evaluation du Développement (CEED)
Burundi	English for All Center (EAC)
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Centre de connaissance en santé
Kenya	Root Capital, Innovations for Poverty Action
Malawi	University of Malawi - Chancellor College
Republic of Cameroon	Cameroon Consumer Service Organization (CamCoSO)
Nigeria	Cross River State Bureau of Statistics, College of Medicine, University of Nigeria, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife
Senegal	CRES, Centre panafricain de recherche pour le développement économique et social (CARDES)
South Africa	World Vision International, University of Johannesburg, Praekelt.Org
Tanzania	Tanzania National Parks, State University of Zanzibar

Question 2: Who else has capacity to conduct IEs?

- 24% of survey respondents were from government departments
- 13.5% of survey respondents who conducted impact evaluations were from government departments
- Respondents from the following country governments reported that they have experience in impact evaluations:
 - Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Madagascar, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe

Question 3: Who provides IE training?

- A total of 67.6% (n=238) of survey respondents indicated that they have received impact evaluation training in the last 10 years
- Types of training:
 - Short, attendance courses (57.3%)
 - 40% of respondents received impact evaluation training at universities outside Africa

Question 3: Who provides IE training?

- Desk review of impact evaluation training:
 - Most accredited courses focussed on M&E in general, and not impact evaluation or impact evaluation methodology specifically
 - Most courses were found to have at least one module on impact evaluation
 - Workshops and non-accredited short courses are presented by academic institutions, international organisations, and various NGOs

Question 4: Overall, where appears to be evidence of most capacity?

Benin, Burkina Faso,
Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria,
Senegal

Cameroon



Uganda, Ethiopia,
Tanzania, Kenya

South Africa



Question 4: Evidence of most capacity

- Strong evidence of capacity in Southern and Eastern Africa, and in schools of public health and faculties of health at universities
- Disproportionate capacity in health sector
- 337 authors across 14 countries in Western Africa who have published impact evaluations, indicating growing capacity in this sub-region
- Of the 48 African countries investigated, we found evidence that impact evaluation training has been offered in 32 of these countries, indicating more impact evaluation training opportunities than anticipated
 - Respondents to the survey indicated that formal, accredited training in impact evaluations is mostly presented at universities outside Africa, particularly European universities

Key take away

- Confirmed that much of the impact evaluations published on Sub-Saharan Africa have been conducted by researchers from the Global North
 - Of the 1 718 impact evaluations published between 1990 and 2015, 1 128 articles (71%) did not have any African authors with African affiliations
- We found more evidence of capacity by local researchers to publish and conduct impact evaluations than has been widely assumed to exist
 - We identified 1 520 unique African researchers with African affiliations across 34 different countries who have authored 490 impact evaluation publications between 1990 and 2015
 - For 14% of these 490 publications all of the authors were African indicating nascent local capacity

Final thoughts and recommendations

- Local experience in impact evaluation exists across SSA, especially in health and nutrition, that funders should draw on
- Scope exists to build impact evaluation capacity in sectors other than health
- Importance of collaboration and opportunities to connect (across continents and on the continent)
- Importance of language in understanding existing capacity
- Accessing training to be accompanied by further support and opportunities

Want to learn more?

- Full report: AEN website / Learning Space
- Research Brief: Hewlett Foundation website



Thank you



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