ROUNTABLE DISCUSSION CONCEPT

2023 Africa Evidence Network (AEN)

Background: The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) is contributing towards the Data Revolution in Africa by ensuring that the Center is positioned as a source of high-quality data, through establishment of a regional microdata repository to enhance data discoverability and to promote responsible open data sharing that informs evidence-informed decision making and policy in Africa. Our research program agenda consists of four themes: **i) Human Development** which focuses on inclusive policies and practices for early childhood development, education and youth empowerment systems in Africa; **ii) Health and Wellbeing** whose focus is on effective intervention strategies and policies to promote equitable health and well-being of all people in Africa; **iii) Population Dynamics and Urbanization** whose focus is to generate evidence in urbanization, fertility, and aging and their implications for developing sustainable and resilient cities; and **iv) Data Science and Evaluations (DSE)** whose primary function is to enable efficient and effective integration of data management, analysis, and evaluation platforms for purposes of evidence generation for decision-making across all of APHRC's programs.

In the **2023 Africa Evidence Network (AEN)** APHRC will showcase its research works across the African continent in a **roundtable discussion** under the theme **"Real-world Evidence: What we know and What We Can Do in Africa".**

Scope of Roundtable Discussion:

Presenter 1: Anthony Ajay, Ph.D., Research Scientist in the Sexual Reproductive Maternal Newborn Health and Rights Unit will present on challenging the politics of social exclusion (CPSE). He will present on how the constellation of government and civil society actors have worked to overcome the barriers to access and use of sexual and reproductive health services, and the rights young people and women in Africa. His discussion will dive into the most recent advances in full domestication and realization of continental sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) commitments in pursuit of development centered on the leave no one behind philosophy. In particular, the presentation will provide up-to-date evidences from several sub-Saharan African countries: Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Liberia.

Presenter 2: Damazo Kadengye, Ph.D., The Head of Data Synergy and Evaluations, will present on the intimate partner violence with focus on the question: "Is wife beating justified and how does it affect gender-based violence? He will highlight evidence emerging from a recent quasi-experimental study involving more than 10,000 participants in Uganda where the impact of justification of wife beating on the experiences of sexual, physical, and emotional violence have been examined overall, and separately for men and women.

Presenter 3: Elizabeth Kemigisha, MD, PhD is a Postdoctoral Research Scientist in Impact Evaluation in the Health and Wellbeing Unit at the APHRC. Kemigisha's discussion will highlight findings from an evaluation that sought to determine the long-term impact of the PEPFAR's DREAMS interventions on sexual risk reduction, HIV counseling and testing uptake, pre and post exposure prophylaxis use, and women empowerment among adolescent girls and women in Nairobi's informal settlements in Siaya County. Evidence are from the analysis of longitudinal data involving two cohorts of adolescent girls and young women from a high versus low HIV incidence settings in Kenya, followed for at least 5 years.

Presenter 4: Maureen Ng'etich, MS. She is a **Data Scientist** and will present findings from the INSPIRE (Implementation Network for Sharing Population Information from Research Entities) and LHS (Learning Health System) using longitudinal population data from health and demographic surveillance (HDSS) sites in Africa. INSPIRE brings together 11 Longitudinal Population Cohorts in East Africa with the aim to create a population-based health data sharing infrastructure and an environment where data can be used effectively for policy decision making.

Presenter 5: Moussa Bagayoko, PhD. He is the **Head of Corporate Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Unit**. He will present on how pregnancy risk, whether low or high, at the first antenatal visit impact the later complication risk during pregnancy, labor or delivery in Kenya. His discussion will highlight evidence from a study that involved nearly 5,000 women aged 15-49 years in Kenya. Findings suggest a need for early identification of women with high-risk pregnancy and appropriate intrapartum monitoring and care to ensure maternal and neonatal survival.

Presenter 6: Sylvia Kiwuwa Muyingo, PhD is **Research Scientist** at the APHRC. She will discuss the Platform for Evaluation and Analysis of COVID-19 Harmonized (PEACH) data project. The emergence of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) as a global pandemic presents a serious health threat to many low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs) and the livelihoods of its people. The need for accurate, real-time data is urgent, so that health policy and planning can be updated to combat the threat. Obtaining those data requires innovation in data collection and aggregation, especially under lockdown restrictions. Sylvia will dissect how artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science (DS) innovations have contributed to the generation of accurate and real-time data using multiple data sources.

Presenter 7: Henry Owoko Odero, MS. He is a **Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Officer**. His discussion will focus on the involvement of women in leadership in the health sector. His talk will highlight how gender intersects with other demographic characteristics in facilitating women's advancement into leadership including how social, political, legal, and environmental factors that compound such advancements. He will explore the ideas of how occupational segregation by gender, coupled with discrimination based on multiple social identities affect women's chance to advance into senior leadership positions within the health sector in Kenya. His evidence is from a formative research that explored contextual pathways for advancing women's equitable representation in decision making processes and leadership, with a particular focus on mid-career professionals Kenya's health sector.

Presenter 8: Francis Maina Kiroro, MS is a **Social Statistician** working in the Education and Youth Empowerment Unit at the APHRC. He will discuss about the choice of school within urban informal settlements in Uganda and Kenya following a prolonged school closure due to COVID-19 pandemic. The study in Kenya was conducted in four (4) urban informal settlements in Nairobi while that in Uganda involved three (3) large urban informal settlements spread across Kampala city and Mukono district.

Presenter 9: Daniel Mtai Mwanga, MS is a **Statistician** at the APHRC. He will present evidence emerging from the Epilepsy Pathway Innovation in Africa (EPInA) project on how leveraging open-source data science technologies has helped to shape the documentation, reporting, analysis, and use of mental health data in Nairobi and Kilifi for quick and timely clinical and policy decisions for people with mental health disorders.