



**AFRICA
EVIDENCE
NETWORK**

Africa Evidence Week 2021: Celebrating Africa's EIDM

13-17 September 2021

#AfricaEvidenceWeek2021

WHAT IS AFRICA EVIDENCE WEEK?

Started in 2019, Africa Evidence Week is the Africa Evidence Network's (AEN) take on a regional evidence week focusing on Africa. Conceived by [3ie](#), evidence weeks have become a popular feature amongst the global evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) community. This includes the London, Washington, and Delhi evidence weeks, a countrywide Ugandan evidence week, a continent-wide Latin American evidence week¹, a sectorial humanitarian evidence week², and a global evaluation evidence week³. In the past, some of these weeks have been largely face-to-face and in one physical location, others have been distributed across locations and have mixed online and offline events and content. A common aim for all evidence weeks is the advocacy for evidence and its use in decision-making.

The [first Africa Evidence Week \(AfEW\)](#) took place in 2019 and saw over 202 AEN members and their organisations participating through the hosting of events, webinars, Twitter chats, writing of blogs, and sharing of video content. The week organically generated overwhelming attention from our stakeholders on Twitter with over 4,651,218 impressions and 2,493 engagements on Twitter in under seven days. AfEW was hosted as fully virtual engagement event.

Highlights of the week were:

- The secretariat coordinated the Week by promoting the content of participating organisations on its communication platforms such as the Africa Evidence Network evidence-informed decision-making hub, GoToMeeting, and social media;
- AfEW received overwhelming support from 399 online participants and 91 of their organisations;
- The Week showcased over 64 incredible evidence-informed decision making activities from across 15 African countries;
- The AfEW programme included in-country events, Twitter conversation starters, webinars, live-streamed events, blog posts, and videos;
- A recorded series videos of AEN members sharing **Why I Fell In Love With EIDM**.

¹ <https://onthinktanks.org/articles/latin-american-evidence-week-10-emerging-lessons/>

² <http://www.evidenceaid.org/events-and-training/hew/>

³ <https://www.glocalevelweek.org/>

The success of AfEW 2019 was due to the incredible dedication and participation of 91 organisations committed to supporting evidence-use for Africa's development. We had 15 African countries represented highlighting the diversity of EIDM on the continent.

WHAT AFRICA EVIDENCE WEEK 2021 HOPES TO ACHIEVE

This year, the AEN is hosting its second virtual AfEW and is sharing this concept note to encourage members to participate in this incredible showcase and promotion of Africa's vibrant EIDM ecosystem. This year's **objective is to showcase and promote the state of EIDM on the continent, specifically highlighting the involvement of Africa's decision-makers.**

The sub-objectives we are aiming to achieve with AfEW 2021 include:

- Showcase the diversity of the African evidence ecosystem and highlight where African decision-makers are spearheading or engaging with EIDM efforts;
- Promote African EIDM innovation that has global relevance;
- Illustrate and promote cases where decision-makers have used or supported the institutionalisation of evidence; and
- Provide a platform for emerging EIDM organisations and evidence champions to share their stories and build collaborations with other AEN members.

BRINGING AFRICA EVIDENCE WEEK 2021 TO LIFE

This virtual week-long celebration of African EIDM and the decision-makers who make it possible will be a **fully virtual collection of digital content shared from across Africa**. The proposed date for AfEW 2021 is 13-17 September 2021. Participants will share their planned activities – see our menu of suggested content below – with the AEN secretariat in the months ahead of the week. The secretariat will coordinate and share with participants the schedule of when their content will be featured on AEN platforms.

AfEW 2021 will be successful because of the incredible EIDM work happening across the continent and active participation by AEN members! The AEN secretariat will play a role in coordinating that work.

During AfEW 2021, the AEN secretariat agrees to:

- Publicise through all our communication channels participants' contributions through an integrated programme of work (together we are greater than the sum of our parts);
- Make webinar software available for use by those contributing to the programme;
- Ensure that attendance to any AfEW event is free;
- Use the week to support increased awareness for and visibility of EIDM in Africa;
- Showcase African EIDM organisations' and decision-makers' work;
- Promote increased collaboration and network-building between individual organisations; and
- Host two webinars on the work of the AEN itself.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

African organisations within the EIDM ecosystem are invited to contact the AEN to propose content they would like to contribute during AfEW. Our Programme Officers will then get in touch to share the relevant templates of required information for the type of content the participant wants to promote. The only screening criteria to be upheld by participants in AfEW 2021 is that all content related to the week should remain free of charge and relevant to the EIDM ecosystem in Africa. Other than that, there will be no application or screening of content done by the AEN. Participants can choose from the menu of suggested activities below or suggest alternative activities that better fit their needs. We especially encourage content that fits with this year's **theme of highlighting the involvement of Africa's decision-makers in EIDM**.

The menu of suggested content includes:

- Live webinars
- Pre-recorded webinars
- Twitter chats
- Blog posts
- Media articles
- Video content such as interviews or documentaries
- Reports such as research report, toolkits, guidelines
- Launches

Participating in AfEW 2021 is open to all members of the AEN – whether newly joined or long-established. Participating in AfEW 2021 means agreeing to:

- Coordinate your own content, and sharing required information timeously with the relevant AEN programme officer.
- Obtain institutional permission and agreement to participate in and represent your organisation/s during AfEW.
- Share content you are legally entitled to distribute.

To participate in AfEW 2021 or to find out more information, please email the AEN secretariat at ace@uj.ac.za.