

# AFRICA EVIDENCE NETWORK



## Africa Evidence Week 2024 Celebrating Africa's EIDM 19-23 August 2024

### BACKGROUND

The [Africa Evidence Network \(AEN\)](#) was established in 2012 as a pan-African community of over 5000 members. The AEN is celebrating 12 years, and it is open to all who live and work on the continent. It is unique in its inclusivity and diversity in six broad dimensions. It spans i) all countries in Africa; ii) all sectors across the Sustainable Development Goals; iii) all spheres, including government, academia, civil society, citizens, and all intermediaries; iv) the full diversity of roles within these spheres from members of parliaments to program managers to researchers; v) all elements of the evidence production and use cycle, from the generation of evidence to its integration into policy and implementation; and vi) all types of evidence from administrative data, to evaluations of all kinds, to experimental research, to citizen experiences and systematic syntheses of primary studies. Its strategic goals are to foster collaboration among those engaged in or supporting EIDM in Africa, increase knowledge and understanding of EIDM, share capacities across the EIDM ecosystem, improve the enabling context by promoting EIDM in Africa, and advocate for Africa's full voice and participation in the national, regional, and global movements to increase EIDM.

### WHAT IS AFRICA EVIDENCE WEEK?

Africa Evidence Week (AfEW) was launched in 2019 as an Africa Evidence Network's (AEN) initiative to take on a regional evidence week focusing on Africa. Initially conceived by the [International Initiative for Impact Evaluation \(3ie\)](#), 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 week<sup>1</sup>, a sectorial humanitarian evidence week<sup>2</sup>, and a global evaluation evidence week<sup>3</sup>. 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.

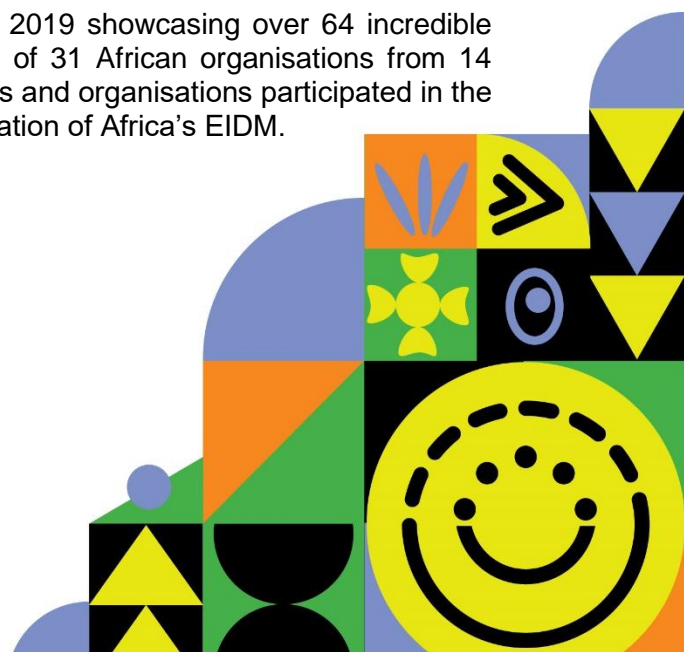
The [first Africa Evidence Week \(AfEW\)](#) took place in 2019 showcasing over 64 incredible EIDM activities across the continent with the support of 31 African organisations from 14 African countries. Some of the continent's EIDM leaders and organisations participated in the first Africa Evidence Week designed as a virtual celebration of Africa's EIDM.

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

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

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.glocalevalweek.org>



The [programme](#) for the week included in-country physical events, Twitter conversation starters, webinars, live-streamed events, blogs, and videos. During the week, the AEN promoted EIDM content for various African organisations such as [Cochrane South Africa](#), [PACKS Africa](#), the [West African Health Organisation](#), the [Policy Action Network](#), and [eBASE Africa](#) through its communication platforms. Over 900 people from across Africa attended in-country events hosted by thirteen organisations during the week. Blogs were one of the most popular ways that organisations participated in Africa Evidence Week with twenty-two blogs posted during the five days. Twitter conversation starters promoted the sharing of EIDM resources such as reports and policy briefs from organisations. This increased engagement and interaction on Twitter, and as a result, the [#AfricaEvidenceWeek](#) hashtag attracted three hundred and ninety-nine online participants from 15 different countries representing 91 organisations, reaching over 1.2 million people on Twitter.

Highlights from the previous Africa Evidence Week activities include a series called [“Why I fell in love with EIDM”](#), launched by the AEN secretariat. These videos featured messages from young and emerging EIDM leaders within Africa. More highlights are captured in the AEN’s [special edition newsletter](#). The success of the Africa Evidence Week received recognition and support from international organisations including the [3ie](#), [FHI 360](#), and the [Collaboration for Environmental Evidence \(CEE\)](#).

The second [Africa Evidence Week \(AfEW\)](#) took place in 2021; the programme for the week consisted of 104 activities, including live webinar events, pre-recorded webinars, blogs, Twitter conversations/resources shared, stories of change, and EIDM emerging leader videos arranged by 37 organisations from 11 African countries. Over 900 people from across Africa attended live webinar events hosted by fifteen organisations during the week. Videos were one of the most popular ways that organisations participated in Africa Evidence Week with twenty-five videos posted during the five days. Twitter conversations promoted the sharing of EIDM resources, such as reports and stories of change. This increased engagement and interaction on Twitter, and as a result, the [#AfricaEvidenceWeek](#) hashtag attracted three hundred and ninety-nine online participants from 15 different countries representing 91 organisations, reaching over 6 million people on Twitter. AEN [special edition newsletter of October 2021](#) captured what transpired during [#AfricaEvidenceWeek2021](#)<sup>4</sup>.

## WHAT AFRICA EVIDENCE WEEK 2024 HOPES TO ACHIEVE?

This year, the AEN is hosting its third 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 contribution of young and emerging leaders in African EIDM.**

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<sup>4</sup> The Africa Evidence Network (AEN) celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2022. A strategic decision was made to reinvent the hosting of our flagship events. This meant that we hosted the Evidence Conference in 2023, with the Africa Evidence Week moving to this year. This is to ensure that the network continues to grow over the next decade.

### The sub-objectives that we are aiming to achieve with AfEW 2024 include:

- Showcase the diversity of the African evidence ecosystem.
- Promote African EIDM innovations that have global relevance.
- Deepen collaboration and connections between African EIDM advocates and their organisations.
- Highlight where African young and emerging leaders in EIDM are spearheading or engaging with EIDM efforts.
- Provide a platform for emerging EIDM organisations and evidence champions to share their stories and build collaborations with other AEN members.

### HOW AFRICA EVIDENCE WEEK 2024 WILL WORK?

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 2024 is 19-23 August 2024. 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 2024 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 2024, the AEN will:

- Publicise through all AEN communication channels participants' contributions through an integrated programme of work (together we are greater than the sum of our parts).
- Make a range of platforms available for use by those contributing to the programme (e.g., webinar hosting platforms).
- Ensure that attendance at any AfEW event is free.
- Use the week to support awareness for and visibility of EIDM in Africa.
- Showcase African EIDM organisations' work.
- Spotlight the role of young and emerging EIDM leaders across the activities.
- Promote 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 pre-recorded 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 2024 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 contribution of young and emerging leaders in EIDM**.



The menu of suggested content includes:

- Pre-recorded webinars
- Live online events
- Live in-person events
- Twitter chats
- Blog posts
- Stories of change
- Video content such as interviews or documentaries
- Publications such as research reports, toolkits, guidelines, etc.

Participating in AfEW 2024 is open to all members of the AEN – whether newly joined or long-established. **Participating in AfEW 2024 means agreeing to:**

- Coordinate your own content and share required information timeously with the relevant AEN programme officer.
- Obtain institutional permission and agreement to participate in and represent your organisation/s during AfEW 2024.
- Share content you are legally entitled to distribute.

To participate in AfEW 2024 or to find out more information, please email the AEN at [afew2024@africaevidencenetwork.org](mailto:afew2024@africaevidencenetwork.org).

